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**SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

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| I. CHINA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged |
| V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include:
Middle East & South Asia Review
Inter-Arab Affairs
Islamic Affairs
Palestinian Affairs
OPEC Affairs
South Asian Regional Affairs
Arab Africa
Algeria
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Syria
South Asia
Afghanistan
Bangladesh
India
Iran
Maldives
Nepal & Bhutan
Pakistan
Sri Lanka |
| VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |

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POPE JOHN PAUL II ARRIVES IN BUENOS AIRES

PY062052 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish at 1900 GMT on 6 April begins live coverage from the military section of Buenos Aires' Jorge Newberry Airport of the arrival of Pope John Paul II from Chile. Establishing shot shows LAN Chile plane landing and taxiing toward terminal. Camera then cuts to long shot of Argentina President Raul Alfonsin, his wife, and the other members of the official welcoming delegation. The plane stops, the ramp is put in place, and Argentine Cardinals Primatesta and Aramburu ascend to greet the pope, who exits the plant at 1909 GMT.

The pope descends the ramp and kisses Argentine soil. He is greeted by Alfonsin, who shakes the pontiff's hand and bows. After the Argentine and the Vatican anthems are played, Alfonsin steps to a microphone and begins to speak.

He says he is happy and thankful for the visit and for the pope's efforts to mediate the 1978 Beagle Channel dispute with Chile. Alfonsin welcomes the pope in the name of all Argentine Catholics, non-Catholics, and nonbelievers of goodwill. He tells the pope that Argentina is his home.

The pope approaches the microphone and begins to speak. He expresses pleasure at being in Argentina and says he came for peace, adding that he has closely followed events in Argentina and Chile since the mediation. He greets all the people of their different regions of Argentina, and says he looks forward to meeting with the country's youth. He says he will pray especially for the poor and the ill.

Alfonsin and the pope then review troops, enter vehicles, and leave the airport.

BOMB DAMAGES OFFICIALS' APARTMENT BUILDING

PY031949 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1103 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (TELAM) -- The police have reported that a bomb exploded early this morning in an apartment building causing some damage but no casualties. Among the people living in the building are Juan Sommer, under secretary of economic policies; a man identified as Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Jose del Pino; and notary public Carlos Prato Murphy.

The Economy Ministry official has an apartment on the sixth floor and the Army officer lives on the fifth floor. Prato Murphy lives on the third floor. The apartment building is located at 2449 Virrey Olaguer Street. The front of the building was damaged by the bomb that exploded at 0400.

The bomb was hung on the main door, and the explosion caused serious damage, breaking windows, and damaging the facade of the building.

PAZ APPOINTS PETRICEVICH INTERIM DEFENSE MINISTER

PY070102 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro this morning appointed Transportation Minister Andres Petricevich as interim defense minister. This information was provided by Presidential Secretary Walter Zuleta Roncal.

Zuleta Roncal added that Industry and Commerce Minister Fernando Moscoso will be acting transportation minister. The president made this decision as a result of the irrevocable resignation submitted on 3 April by Defense Minister Luis Fernando Valle Quevedo.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RESCHEDULE DEBT

PY011740 La Pa La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The Bolivian Government has exchanged notes with the Japanese Government concerning the rescheduling of Bolivia's commercial debt to that country. The ceremony took place at the Bolivian Foreign Ministry between Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal and Japanese Ambassador Takeyoshi Ito. The agreement will cover principal and interests of the commercial debt contracted before 31 December 1985 by the Bolivian Government, state-owned corporations and private firms.

The Bolivian foreign minister said at the end of the ceremony, that the signing of the agreement is very significant because Japan has always been one of Bolivia's best friends in its current plight.

Takeyoshi Ito said Japan is certain it is truly helping Bolivia to overcome the serious problem of servicing its foreign debt.

The agreement states that the Fund for International Cooperation will lighten the burden of Bolivia's foreign debt by a rescheduling that will markedly change the status of the debt. Right now, Bolivia owes Japan approximately 2.38 billion yen.

PRC TO DEVELOP FIGHTER PLANE WITH EMBRAER

PY061655 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 87 p 29

[Text] Brasilia -- The PRC wishes to build a supersonic fighter plane in conjunction with Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. The airplane will feature advanced technology, nonconventional materials in its structure, and be comparable to the European and American aircraft designed for the coming decade. The project, construction, and marketing will be handled jointly by the two countries.

The China Aircraft Import and Export Corporation Committee, currently visiting Rio de Janeiro, will go next week to Sao Jose dos Campos to make the initial contacts with Embraer. The Chinese committee, headed by Sun Zhaoquig, president of Catic [not further identified], will negotiate the purchase of Xingu executive airplanes. These Xingu planes will be used to train pilots of the Chinese state transportation company.

The Chinese committee is currently meeting with Brazilian Air Force [FAB] officers. These meetings were commissioned by Minister Octavio Julio Moreira Lima to evaluate the most advanced craft, the F-7 Airguard fighter plane, exported by Catic.

An FAB delegation flew this plane in the PRC last December, and requested the inclusion of additional equipment to make it more adequate for Brazilian operational conditions. These modifications include a landing system for poor visibility conditions and an inertial landing system. The Catic Committee brought the plans of a modified F-7 M Airguard to show it to the FAB committee.

A sales package is ready. It includes GE locomotives, Santa Matilde urban electric trains and wagons, Terex all-terrain trucks, elebra [nor further identified] radar for airports, Digital Technical Systems [Sistema Tecnoco Digitais] industrial computers, and large Muller agricultural tractors.

FOREIGN OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS

PY031907 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1350 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Campo Grande, Brazil, 3 Apr (EFE) -- Military sources today confirmed that officers from 16 Latin American, Asian, and European countries and from the United States will participate on 4 April in military maneuvers that have been organized by the Command School of Brazil's Army Staff.

The military exercises will take place in the state of Mato Gross do Sul, which borders Bolivia and Paraguay.

The 150 officers from the FRG, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the ROK, Ecuador, the United States, France, Honduras, Italy, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, and Venezuela, will be headquartered in the city of Campo Grande, the capital of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul.

According to the sources, the maneuvers will be held in jungle areas of Brazil, and they will concentrate on defense strategy training, combat, and survival in inaccessible areas.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET BIDS FAREWELL TO POPE 6 APR

PY062002 [Editorial report] Television Nacional de Chile on 6 April at 1555 GMT taps into a national network to cover the pope's departure from Antofagasta's Cerro Moreno Airport.

Establishing shot shows the pope's motorcade approaching the airport where President Pinochet and high-ranking government officials are waiting for the holy father. Video shows people applauding as pope arrives, leaves his car, and walks toward the airport VIP room, accompanied by the Chilean Government's director of protocol. Pinochet exits VIP room to meet the pope. The pope approaches Pinochet, who grasps the pope's right hand in both his hands and inclines his head toward the pope's ring. The pope, without looking at Pinochet's face, grasps the president's right wrist with his left hand. Pinochet stops moving his head toward the pope's ring without kissing it, and stands erect, and the two continue shaking hands. They then walk side-by-side into the VIP room, where Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, and other government officials greet the pope.

After showing long-range shots and pan shots of the airport, and a short conversation between the pope and two priests, the announcer reports that the pope and the officials are exchanging gifts. Immediately thereafter, the president, the pope, church dignitaries, and military officers are seen leaving the VIP room and walking toward the official stand. The pope greets and blesses children and the crowd at the airport facilities.

After the president and the pope arrive at the rostrum, the pontiff at 1609 GMT begins reading a speech in which he says he is sorry to leave Chile, a nation he admires. The pontiff stresses the Chilean people's devotion to their fatherland and to their traditions, expressing the hope that such devotion may help the people overcome the problems and promote a more fraternal coexistence.

After expressing his joy for the experiences he had during his stay in Chile, the pope says: "I will now pray to our merciful God to ask Him to give all of you a firm desire to tackle, with a calm and positive attitude, the problems you are confronting, seeking solutions on the basis of dialogue, accord, solidarity, justice, reconciliation, and forgiveness." The pope thanks the president and the government for their cooperation with the sponsors of his visit.

After shaking hands again with the pope, President Pinochet delivers a short speech. The president thanks the holy father for his visit and stresses the pope's devotion and appreciation for Chile.

After stressing that the pope's words and actions "have reasserted the moral and spiritual principles and values that are the sound foundations of our historical and cultural identity," Pinochet says: "We are aware that this involves a commitment for all my fellow countrymen, a commitment to building our coexistence upon solidarity and a spirit of Christian faith instead of selfish personal ambitions. Holy father: The task in which we are engaged calls for a supreme effort and for the exercise of all your power."

"Decisive values and circumstances, like our sovereignty and our national being, depend on the successful outcome of this task. The task is of such magnitude that it calls for divine help. As you leave this land, I would like you to take a special request from the children of this fatherland to renew your prayers to God, asking Him to end all the threats that hinder our coexistence and our development."

Pinochet ends his speech by reiterating his thanks for the pope's visit. The video then shows the pope shaking hands with the president. The two leaders are then seen greeting church and government officials and military officers, while the crowd shouts: Long live the pope!

After listening to the Chilean and the Vatican anthems and reviewing the Air Force band in the company of President Pinochet, the pope boards the plane that will take him to Argentina. The plane takes off at 1648 GMT, while President Pinochet observes from the rostrum and the crowd at the airport waves small flags and handkerchiefs.

Coverage ends at 1651 GMT, after a short interview with minister secretary general of government Francisco Cuadra.

AMBASSADOR DENIES CARACOL REPORTERS EXPELLED

PA040135 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] There was unrest today in Chile. In Colombia, there was unrest as well due to reports that the Chilean Government of General Augusto Pinochet had censured the CARACOL Radio Network and banned its transmission to Colombia. Since this morning, CARACOL special envoys suspended their reports. It is said that they have left Chile for Argentina.

Chilean Ambassador to Colombia Alvaro Salvadores Salvi made the following statement on the as of yet unclarified situation.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What do you know about what happened to the CARACOL Network, which announced the suspension of its transmissions alleging the Chilean Government ordered them out?

[Salvadores] A few hours ago, I received a telephone call from the Chilean interior minister. He told me that reports on the treatment of the CARACOL Network reporters are not true. No CARACOL Network reporters have been expelled from Chile, as some news agencies have stated. Moreover, reporters have not been forbidden to transmit the news they had come to report from Chile. The state has provided all sorts of facilities. CARACOL's problem was that it made arrangements with Chilean Radio Minería, a private radio station, for access to that radio station's installations for its transmissions. There was some misunderstanding between these two groups. Radio Minería rescinded the contract.

However, the Chilean Social Communications National Directorate told the CARACOL people that they could continue their transmissions through other means, that is, [words indistinct] or state telephones from anywhere. Therefore, they were given all sorts of facilities. [end recording]

BARCO SPEECH PROMPTS 'DIVERSE REACTIONS' FROM POLITICIANS

PA061553 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Apr 87 p 6-A

[Article by Leonel Fierro T.]

[Text] President Virgilio Barco's address on the public order situation has prompted diverse reactions. While some sectors, including the Patriotic Union [UP], hailed the president for "pulling the ear" of the private sector, others felt that treatment had been unfair.

All sectors endorsed the plan for the peasant sector President Barco unveiled at the governors meeting at Narino Palace. However, some said that for the plan to succeed, it must be accompanied by security measures in rural areas.

Political and association leaders questioned by EL TIEMPO said the president's views are a little unfair because the persons accused of not giving their support are the most affected by violence in the rural areas.

Hugo Escobar Sierra, former Conservative minister; Jaime Pardo Leal, former leftist presidential candidate; Heraclio Fernandez, vice president of the Chamber of Representatives and member of the Central Political Commission [CPC]; and Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento, senator and member of the New Liberalism national directorate, concurred in their support for these measures. They also supported the president for faulting businessmen who "do not fulfill their responsibilities."

However, former President Misael Pastrana Borrero and Senators J. Emilio Valderrama and Rodrigo Marin Bernal criticized Barco's remarks. They reiterated their skepticism of the efficacy of these measures.

Senator Escobar Siera felt the plan unveiled by President Barco to promote the country's agricultural area was "very interesting and important." However, he noted that for the plan to succeed, security must be restored in the rural areas where the public order situation continues to be delicate.

He commented on the president's reply to those who ask him to "get tough" when there are problems and who yet do not fulfill their own social responsibilities. He said: "In Congress, we have always been careful to study all matters regarding the country's welfare and development. We have worked in a cordial and positive manner without any partisan difficulties. That is why, for example, we managed to create the legal guidelines for administrative decentralization with the consensus of all political sectors. That has been our contribution. Moreover, we have not neglected the critical role the Conservative Party must play within the government-opposition pattern. We follow the same paths. Regarding public order, however, that falls directly within the purview of the president, as he told the government, intendant, and commissariat representatives."

Heraclio Fernandez, member of Congress and of the CPC, said the government's strategy is good. He said the support of the leaders of political parties, public corporations, and the citizens at large is indispensable for fully implementing it.

"We must not forget that to pull the country out of the current dilemma, the government alone cannot make the effort; all Colombians of good will must help," he remarked.

Former magistrate Jaime Pardo Leal labeled positive the president's appeal for solving the problem without violence or repression. He concurred with Barco's criticism of the economic groups.

He said: "These groups can only think of a military solution without concern for their social duties or without contributing to overcome social conflicts. They think they must use arms to defend their privileges. They do not care that besides themselves there are millions of Colombians living in this fatherland."

Although he insisted the government must take steps against the so-called "paramilitary bands" and prevent sectors within the Army from contradicting the Army's own policies and from becoming involved in something outside their purview such as political discussions, Pardo Leal wished the president well on his rehabilitation programs.

Senator Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento yesterday analyzed the president's speech with the members of the New Liberalism directorate. He said: "We feel the emphasis on Colombia's peasant sector and rural zones is something very important and crucial. These zones have been the most affected by the tension that comes from the deterioration of public order. It is very important that the government helps them. That emphasis is very important, and we would like to see it implemented."

Eliseo Restrepo Londono, executive president of the Association of Colombian Farmers (SAC), commented on the president's remarks. He said his association agrees in general terms with the government's interest in attaching great importance to the rural economy, because for years SAC has been stating that the rural poor are being discriminated against.

After reiterating that SAC backs the government's support for peasants, he said it remains to be seen how the plans mentioned by President Barco are to be worked out.

Regarding security, Restrepo Londono noted that SAC is convinced all sectors must contribute their share of sacrifice for peace. However, it is up to the government to determine how they can contribute, he said.

Moreover, Rodrigo Zapata, speaking on behalf of the National Land Users Association (ANUC), said the government has the broad support of organized peasants because the president understands the situation in the rural areas and of the people living there.

"The president's vision is clear. We see he is giving the right instructions to ministers and other officials to listen to the peasants' appeals. Also, we realize the president is giving us the opportunity to express ourselves, something only SAC and the FEDEGAN [Association of Colombian Cattleman] were able to do," Zapata said.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MEETS FARC COMMANDERS

PA031526 Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Report by Hernando Corral]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Presidential Adviser Carlos Ossa Escobar met for several hours with peasants who gathered in Remolino, where he installed a rehabilitation committee. He explained the government's development plans to improve their standard of living, to find other alternatives to coca production, and to put an end to guerrilla control of the area.

Ossa Escobar met with Jorge Briceno and Avelino Medina, commanders of the FARC's 14th and 15th fronts, who were in that area. They discussed violations of the peace agreement and the [guerrilla] skirmishes with Army troops currently working on the construction of the road between El Paujil and Cartagena del Chaira.

Ossa Escobar and the guerrilla leaders agreed to maintain better communication to find a solution to the ups and downs of the peace process.

ELN GUERRILLAS BLOW UP OIL PIPELINE SECTION

PA030403 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Mar 87 p 9-A

[Article by Walter Martinez P.]

[Text] Santa Marta, 28 Mar -- National Liberation Army, ELN, guerrillas detonated a bomb in a section of the oil pipeline that goes from Campo Dificil to Plato, police officials in this department capital have reported.

The bomb exploded on Kilometer 27, an area under the Apure police station jurisdiction, in Chivolo municipality. The device caused some property damage at the Oil Company [name in English as published] installations, an enterprise that has been operating in that region for several years.

The Plato municipality police have confirmed that the action was carried out by an ELN armed group. The group left ELN propaganda at the site of the explosion.

The explosion tore through the pipeline, and oil was spilled, but the emergency was solved quickly by company work crews with police cooperation.

There has been no estimate of property damage, but it could exceed 150,000 pesos. Cordova Battalion troops have been sent from Santa Marta to pursue the rebels, who fled into the mountains.

SOLDIER KILLED IN CLASH WITH CNG IN VALLE DEL CAUCA

PA051802 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Mar 87 p 2-A

[Article by James Arias]

[Text] Cali, 30 Mar -- One soldier was killed and another wounded in clashes in the last few days between the 8th Army Brigade and a column of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] in Canon de Garrepatas, in northwestern Valle del Cauca Department.

On Saturday, a patrol of the Vencedores Battalion encountered a CNG column of 40 M-19 and ELN [National Liberation Army] men led by Rafael Camargo (also known as "Felipe").

Soldier Jose Henao Mosquera was killed and soldier Alirio Gomez Henao was wounded. The number of insurgent casualties is unknown.

The subversives were wearing uniforms similar to those of the police and were armed with rifles.

Farmers and cattlemen of the region bordering Choco Department are subjected to guerrilla extortion. At least 85 families are expected to leave the area at any moment and move to El Dovio and Versalles municipalities because of the intensification of guerrilla activity in the region.

BRIEFS

NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR -- Gheorghe Fulea, the new Romanian ambassador to Colombia, has presented credentials to Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas. He replaces Gheorghe Dobra. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Apr 87 p 8A PA]

ENERGY MINISTER EXPLAINS FUEL PRICE INCREASE

PA192144 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Javier Espinosa Teran has revealed all the technological and legal arguments used by his ministry to rule on the increase of fuel prices through a ministerial agreement.

Espinosa explained that articles 72 and 73 of the hydrocarbon law allow the energy minister to change fuel prices whenever he believes that the relation between production costs and sales prices is disproportionate.

With those legal considerations, Minister Espinosa acted ahead of the Court of Constitutional Guarantees, which was studying a suit presented by Dr Washington Ceballos regarding the unconstitutionality of the measures declared on 13 March.

[Begin Espinosa recording] The [word indistinct] of 55 sucres is based on the following consideration: It has been proved that private vehicles consume more than 80 percent of the country's gasoline. This means that those who buy gas at 90 and 110 sucres are now financing those who now buy fuel at less than 55 sucres, which is the average sale price.

For example, LPG, which is one of the most highly subsidized fuels, is sold at 62 sucres per gallon or 15 sucres per kg. [Word indistinct] which has production costs similar to that of super gasoline [word indistinct] is subsidized by gasoline consumers.

[Word indistinct] reason to be [words indistinct] the cost. [end recording]

NIGERIA TO LEND OIL TO ALLEVIATE CRISIS

PA022059 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The Nigerian [word indistinct] has approved the lending to Ecuador of 10,000 barrels of crude oil daily to alleviate the serious energy crisis the country is enduring. At the beginning of this month, Ecuador suffered strong quakes that seriously affected its oil production.

According to an official statement broadcast last night by Nigerian television, this loan is in response to an Ecuadoran request to the OPEC countries. Ecuador and Venezuela are the only two Latin American countries that are members of OPEC. Two-thirds of Ecuador's gross national product is derived from the exploitation and exportation of this product.

AIR FORCE ACCEPTS COMMANDER; SWORN IN 6 APR

PY070004 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2050 GMT 6 Apr 87

[By Marisol Marin]

[Excerpts] Lima, 6 Apr (EFE) — The most serious military crisis faced by the democratic regime in the last 7 years was apparently resolved today when the Air Force accepted its new commander, General Pablo Varela Novela.

The strictly military ceremony was held this morning at Las Palmas Military Base, the place where from 2 April to 4 April about 200 Peruvian Air Force, FAP, officers confided themselves to their barracks and were virtually in a state of insurrection to protest the dismissal of their commander, Luis Abram Cavallerino. [passage omitted]

Gen Pablo Varela, the new FAP commander, promised this morning to respect the Constitution and the laws in force, and he said the Air Force will continue to uphold "a staunch monolithic unity."

After the Air Force recognized its new commander, Gen Pablo Varela went to Government House to take the oath of office before President Alan Garcia, who, under the Constitution, is the supreme chief of the Armed Forces.

Later during a protocol ceremony, Garcia, Varela, and the members of the FAP staff presided over the change of guard at the Government House patio.

Now that this chapter has been closed, members of the left are demanding that Abram Cavallerino and others responsible for the incident be tried for disobeying orders, insurrection, and violating the Constitution. There is no doubt this issue will stir up political debate in the next few days.

Unconfirmed reports this morning said General Humberto Quea, who as FAP operations chief had authorized the buzzing of Government House by military aircraft during the crisis, has retired. [passage omitted]

ANTITERRORIST DIRECTORATE CAPTURES 2 CELLS

PY011724 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The Antiterrorist directorate has captured 10 members of 2 terrorist cells. These individuals had been recruited in prep schools and had operated in the area of Central Highway.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] One group comprised four youths who belong to the youth movement of the Shining Path group. These individuals were recruited in prep schools and have been conducting propaganda and recruitment activities. They were also being trained to join larger and more advanced groups.

The second cell belongs to the Shining Path's Armed Press and Propaganda Apparatus. Some of these individuals have played a secondary role in the murder of leaders throughout the country.

[Reporter] Where did they operate?

[Speaker] They operated in the eastern zone, especially in (Harte), (Tarte), Chosica, Sacalacayo, and El Agustino.

[Reporter] How?

[Speaker] Most of these individuals are workers. As I have already said, they were being trained to join higher levels of the subversive organization.

[Reporter] Is there any evidence that the Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] are active within the universities?

[Speaker] Yes, there is evidence...

[Reporter, interrupting] What evidence do you have?

[Speaker] First, we have all the propaganda, which can be seen in the universities, and all of its calls to support these organizations.

As for other evidence, we have the recent discovery of another group that included five or six university students. The participation of university students in this type of activity is very evident. In many cases the individuals who work for these organizations do not sleep -- or rather, do not stay -- in the universities, but use them for meetings and to allocate tasks.

[Reporter] Are their activities being investigated?

[Speaker] Yes, the investigation is advancing thanks to the documentation seized within the universities.

[Reporter] Are these terrorist incidents the ones the minister [not further identified] mentioned some days ago?

[Speaker] Yes, and there is a possibility of breaking up another cell. [end recording]

GARCIA DISCUSSES CENTRAL AMERICA, DEMOCRACY

PA261737 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 15a

[Report on part two of three-part interview with President Alan Garcia by EXCELSIOR correspondent Ana Maria Urbina at Garcia's office in Lima; date not given -- all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Lima, 19 Mar -- In the case of Latin America, Peruvian President Alan Garcia stated: "No one can be an arbiter or guardian in ideological terms; no one can say what ideology must govern us; that is up to the people. That is why I believe in democracy."

Taking a stand, this young and charismatic president affirmed: "Democracy is the only civilized means of coexistence among human beings."

The conversation with the Peruvian president then turned to the Central American crisis and the struggle for peace of all Latin American peoples.

The leader listed, with what could be described as Latin American fervor, the political principles in international law. He called for the maintenance of the first sign of Latin American unity (the Contadora Group) to respond to an extracontinental problem.

"Central America and Nicaragua must be defended from interventionism," he warned. However, he clarified: "My friendship with the Sandinist regime does not mean I am writing a blank check, just as I am sure no one would do the same with my government. One must be realistic."

[Urbina] Mr President, Peru, just like Mexico, has promoted self-determination, political negotiation, and respect of sovereignty. Do you think that your visit to Mexico could give new dynamism to the Contadora peace efforts?

[Garcia] "Although it may not be believed, the importance of the Contadora and Support Groups is not only that they have begun a peace process but essentially that they continue to exist. Today more than ever, that dynamism must be maintained. The first sign of Latin American unity (the Contadora Group) must be kept alive and effective so as to respond to an extracontinental problem: the threat of interventionism.

"What Contadora and its Support Group must do is continue to exist and in this way frustrate those who believe peace efforts can be broken up or dissolved. On the other hand, let us not be guilty of impatience and think everything will be resolved right away. This is an old fight, and it will last a long time. That is why I believe the best thing is to have patience, remain calm, and not be frightened by the many things that are heard and that are usually the result of domestic issues in some big powers."

[Urbina] Bearing in mind Mexico and Peru's importance in the Latin American community, their anti-interventionist and nationalist position, and the hardening of the U.S. position toward Central America, is a new phase of U.S.-Latin American tension foreseen?

[Garcia] "I think the best tool the poor have is their calm. Our best tool is equanimity. Therefore, when I hear rash observations or opinions, I simply remain calm. That is the best way to respond to the errors.

"In the case of Mexico and Peru -- viewing its history, Mexico, which has always defended irreproachable principles in foreign policy from the time of the Spanish Republic to the case of Cuba, maintains a respectable line -- the coincidence of opinions is obvious. Mexico is an example in the Contadora Group, and we greatly value its line. We adhere to it.

"Regarding our being pro-Sandinist, as some U.S. officials insist, I will repeat what I said in Nicaragua. There are two problems: The first is to defend Central America and Nicaragua from interventionism. No one be an arbiter or guardian of Latin America in ideological terms.

"No one can say what ideology must govern us; that is up to the people. That is justly up to them. That is why I believe in democracy.

"On the other hand, in the way Sandinism was established to overthrow a dictatorship and to build an anti-imperialist state -- but based on democracy and freedom -- I think Sandinism is a goal and an end. Now then, we must understand that it has limitations because of the current situation. Even amid the limitations, we must struggle so the anti-imperialist action will be carried out through democracy, which is the only civilized means of coexistence among human beings."

[Urbina] The Reagan administration has insisted on helping the Nicaraguan contras. This direct U.S. intervention in the Central American conflict makes a peaceful solution more difficult. What future do you foresee for the Contadora and Support Groups?

[Garcia] The U.S. Government currently has more problems inside the United States than outside. I believe it would not be too adventurous to say that very soon the "freedom fighters" will be needed inside the United States.

As we view the situation, without wishing any evil on anyone, we believe that the United States will have to put more energy into resolving some problems concerning those who had links with Somoza.

I greatly admire the U.S. people. I admire their economic development. I admire their history, because those cowboy stories we have heard also reflect the odyssey of a progressive people, and thus far the U.S. people have made great spiritual contributions.

I am an admirer of the U.S. people and a critic of some of the policies of some of its governments. Naturally, I am a defender of Latin America in the face of the subconscious pull exerted by the huge U.S. technological-economic power. At no time do we wish the United States or its people any evil. What we cannot accept is the obsession regarding topics of Latin America's exclusive purview.

I believe we are the ones who should decide who are and who are not freedom fighters. However, as I said, I believe the United States is facing more problems inside its territory than outside. This could bring new hope, unless in a desperate attempt to get attention the current situation is changed to draw attention from the central problems currently faced by the administration. I repeat that short of a desperate reaction, I believe (for Latin America and Central America) there is a waiting period, a truce.

I believe violence will not escalate. I am optimistic that the situation as it is can be helpful in the sense that the parties involved can learn to accept each other, because what we have in Central America is a situation in which neither side accepts the other. I believe the new situations hampering the interventionist plans will help.

I am sure the U.S. people, who are lucid people -- it is not by chance that they are the most powerful people in the world and have a real democracy, as the Watergate case demonstrated -- will not participate in a warlike adventure and will not commit themselves to a problem that will make them the enemies of all of Latin America. We want to be friends of the U.S. people.

[Urbina] The FRG recently suspended aid to Nicaragua. How do you see this attitude within the current context of the Central American conflict?

[Garcia] My friendship with the Sandinist regime does not mean I have signed a blank check, and I am sure no one would do that for my government, either. We must be realistic.

Many people have affection for the Peruvian Government, but at the same time criticize our mistakes. We say the same thing regarding our Sandinist friends, our companeros. We defend nonintervention in substance. However, perhaps this matter could be handled with a little more flexibility. I repeat: perhaps.

We are not in the middle of the problem. We do not live there. I believe we may not know enough of the problem to express our opinion. Nevertheless, maybe the matter could be handled differently. Naturally, our German friends are free to evaluate the political regime in their own way, as they understand it.

I also believe withdrawing aid from a country that is going through a grave conflict and is facing war is not the best way to contribute to Central America's pacification. What first impressed me during my visit to Managua was that there was no city -- and this is surprising for anyone who has not seen it 'in situ'. It still has not recovered from the 1970 earthquake and must also face the mercenary bands that burn the coffee crops and harass the people, which makes it necessary to divert great economic resources to war and mobilization, leading to people sacrificing their lives.

Therefore, how can we demand a country under those conditions comply canonically with the democratic ritual? ... What I would ask is understanding.

(To be continued)

Final Part of Interview

PA271254 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Mar 87 pp 1-a, 14-a

[Report on part three of three-part interview with President Alan Garcia by EXCELSIOR correspondent Ana Maria Urbina at Garcia's office in Lima; date not given -- all quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Lima, 20 Mar -- "The threat of having coups d'etat" will never leave Latin America. "The interruption of democratic process" is not impossible, either, and we "civilians and democrats" will always be willing to rescue and strengthen such processes, Peruvian President Alan Garcia said.

[Garcia] "The problem is not to view any such interruption as dramatic and final. The history of Latin America is nothing but a continuous interruption [of the democratic processes]. However, when things are interrupted, new situations occur. [passage omitted]

[Urbina] Regarding the creation of the Defense Ministry, you recently said you're not afraid to change the custom of not upsetting the military. Is this a way to get attention, or is it a warning?

[Garcia] I believe the best support a president can have is to have no fears. The best principle is the truth and not to be afraid to tell the truth.

"For example, when the creation of the Defense Ministry was proposed, there were many civilian sectors that were concerned and said: What will occur with the military, what will it say? I respect and appreciate the military very much. However, I believe the reality is that some civilian sectors are afraid. This fear is inherited from the continuous coups d'etat during our life as a Republic. There is the belief that there are some untouchable sectors and that one must behave properly with the Armed Forces so one can obtain power. I believe such an idea is part of the past and such fears should no longer exist." [passage omitted]

[Urbina] It seems the concept and the principle of Latin American economic sovereignty and the importance of continental independence had been ignored or avoided. You, as the Peruvian president, have acted -- before the Latin American community and the world -- as the child in the story who has shown to the world that the king was naked. What has motivated you to act like that?

[Garcia] I was motivated by ideological principles and the political formation of APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Party], which is my party. I am firmly convinced of the need to build an anti-imperialist government. What happens is that we in Latin America are used to having radical candidates who then abandon radicalism once they reach the presidency. [passage omitted]

[Urbina] Are there many prisoners in Peru charged with terrorism?

[Garcia] Yes, several hundred.

[Urbina] Hundreds?

[Garcia] Hundreds. Not all of them have been sentenced, but they are all under investigation or being tried.

[Urbina] Do you believe that in this area [terrorism] there is an action planned at the level of Latin America or at a worldwide level?

[Garcia] I still do not believe terrorism is international. I do not think the USSR, Cuba, Nicaragua, or North Korea are financing terrorist actions, at least not in my country. I do not believe all this is part of an international plot. Terrorism has several factors. A social process such as terrorism is not necessarily fanaticism, madness, or criminal. That same fanaticism or madness could have an explanation but not a justification. The explanation could be due to marginal conditions, lack of education, or negative reactions to unsatisfied consumerism. Violence, rather than terrorism, has very clear internal conditionings. [passage omitted]

LABOR LEADER TERMS PRI 'REVOLUTIONARY LEFT'

PA061457 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 31 Mar 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by Juan Guzman G.]

[Text] Fidel Velasquez, secretary general of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], yesterday described his party, PRI, as of "the revolutionary left" and dismissed as little importance the merger of the five Marxist organizations into the Mexican Socialist Party, PMS, because "the sum total of five zeros will always be zero."

Velasquez also mentioned the need for a labor-management accord to avoid further price and salary increases. He also refuted the alleged convenience of disclosing the name of the PRI presidential candidate. Velasquez reported that 112,000 trade unions with 5 million CTM members will call for a strike to demand that they be included in the 20-percent minimum salary raise recently authorized.

After meeting with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, leader of Algeria's National Liberation Front, Velasquez talked with reporters at his usual Monday conference and harshly criticized the leftist parties that "have not been able to represent the true consensus required to constitute a true opposition group."

He denied that the shortage of economic resources is at the core of this complete lack of popularity, explaining that they have proportionately more money than PRI. "They have not been able to enjoy the people's trust because they do not know how to proselytize. In addition, they do not respond to the majorities' idiosyncrasies," he added.

Velasquez said: "The party's actions and its material inability to reach a general consensus lead us to expect that the PMS will never be able to achieve political power. The same is true of the National Action Party, PAN."

He pointed out the proper way to avoid a purchasing power drop is for producers to pledge not to raise their prices "for a short time. We would not demand salary raises."

Regarding his opposition the early disclosure of the name of the PRI presidential candidate, the octogenarian leader explain: "The time is not yet up. We still have many problems to solve and in this way we would make the campaign last longer unnecessarily." [sentence as published]

He was asked: "What are those problems?"

"Food, housing, and the economic problem. Every effort is being made to alleviate these problems. We are also concerned about several social issues such as the living standard of workers, peasants, and the popular sector. This is very important and makes it worthwhile for us to give it high priority by taking advantage of this political respite."

He also said that PRI has "any number of possible candidates" to assume this great responsibility. He denied that the loans that Mexico obtained from international banks will be used to defray the expenses of the PRI's political campaign.

He reiterated his party is of the "revolutionary left" and it has not turned from its course, because the party "has continued to champion the best causes of the Mexican people and struggle for the demands of the peasants, salaried workers, and the middle class."

He denied Monterrey entrepreneur Juan Jose Moreno Sada is a PRI member. "He has said so, but I have not heard of any employer belonging to our party."

He was asked: What about former Governor Carlos Hank Gonzalez?

"I understand he is no longer an active member. He was a PRI member during the time he was Mexico state governor and headed the Federal District department."

Finally, he said a meeting with Arsenio Farell and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, secretaries for labor and social welfare and programming and budget, respectively, has been requested to discuss the 23-percent salary raise for the parastate enterprises and to discuss that the 20-percent increase of the minimum salary include other sectors. "Our trade unions will call for a strike to press for this achievement."

COMMERCE SECRETARY ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION PLANS

PA031913 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Hector Hernandez, commerce and industrial development secretary, has stressed that Mexico's opening to commerce abroad will make it possible to ease short term inflationary pressures. Following is the second part of the conversation he held with our colleague Claudio Bernal.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] The commercial opening entails at the same time revision of a domestic opening. The domestic opening means that price controls have to be relaxed because we will have opened, so to speak, the possibility of imports that may compete with domestic production. Therefore, the foreign opening and internal (?openings) go together. This opening will have a reasonable influence on domestic prices to the extent it operates in practice because, there being a tariff or import tax, the internal producer will not be able to raise his prices over and above the combined tariff and international price. In other words, the foreign and the domestic openings will help us to gradually eliminate the monopolies and oligopolies in our national industry.

However, the results of a commercial, of a domestic opening, cannot be [words indistinct] overnight. They take time. However I and many experts in this field are fully convinced that this will make Mexico's industry more modern over the medium and short term. This is what is called industrial reconversion, but I would rather call it -- together with its linkage to the opening -- industrial revitalization. If there is no industrial revitalization or reconversion, the commercial opening will be lame. In other words, the two things have to go together.

[Bernal] Finally, can it be said that Mexico has pursued a policy that permits it to make progress with the resolution of the trade problem and at the same time resolve the problem of the debt [word indistinct]? (?Do you think) Mexico may have access in the future to a higher level of [words indistinct]?

[Hernandez] President de la Madrid's political concept can be expressed in few words. They are: one has to grow in order to pay. In other words, this means that in order to pay [words indistinct] the debt and to grow, domestic production and exports must grow. The flow of foreign exchange must grow to allow us not to not only maintain the production machinery and to make it grow, but to meet our foreign debt obligations at the same time. This is the concept the president has put forth, and I think it is implicit, or underlies -- or perhaps does not underlie -- the overall financial arrangement we concluded last week, which was signed by the U.S. treasury secretary.

Therefore, I think that our country must not rely exclusively on the substitution of imports. It must generate foreign exchange in order to be able to pay for the imported components in its output and to meet its foreign debt obligations. In other words, only if we export can we adequately confront the debt. Naturally, if the payment terms of the debt improve because the deadlines are longer, interest rates are lower, and the interest payments drop, this will help us to put the resources we generate through international transactions to better use. [end recording]

BRIEFS

SEIZED MARIJUANA BURNED -- Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican Navy Secretariat has reported that the biggest shipment of drugs seized this year has been destroyed in Isla Mujeres, Quintana Roo. The 19 tons of marijuana, packed in 472 bales, were found on the San Francisco Dos, a Mexican fishing boat that sailed from Colombia a few days ago. Miami was the port of destination for the drug. The San Francisco Dos crew was arrested during the operation. [Summary] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0258 GMT 3 Apr 87 FL]

DEFENSE SECRETARY ON DRUGS -- Mexico City, 2 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui met with President Miguel de la Madrid to inform him that in the past 21 days, the Mexican Army and Air Force had destroyed 10,345 poppy plants and 3,194 marijuana plants. The secretary also reported during the operation, 165 kg of cocaine, 5 kg of opium gum, 591 kg of marijuana seeds, and 10 kg of poppy seeds, were seized; 429 people were arrested and 561 firearms were recovered. Arevalo Gardoqui also said that 11 camps and 6 clandestine airstrips were destroyed. [Summary] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2113 GMT 2 Apr 87 FL]

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. ATTITUDE ON NORIEGA

PA271350 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 33

[Part one of commentary by Baltazar Aizpurua: "Gringos Attack Noriega Because He Is Not a 'Yes Man'"]

[Text] Some analysts had illusions and mistakenly believed that the Irangate case would finish the U.S. establishment's attack capabilities. The Iran-contra issue did decrease the already dangerous warlike activities of Mr Reagan and the so-called "new right" team accompanying him in his crazy quest to rescue the U.S. pride hurt by the political and military defeat in Vietnam. The strategic idea for U.S. hegemony continues, especially regarding Latin America. As far as the imperialists are concerned, we are still their backyard and their source of cheap labor and raw materials.

The U.S. establishment has several heads. The most visible ones are the Executive Branch and Congress (political power), the Pentagon (military power), and the transnationals and the international financial organizations (economic power). All these powers attack and counterattack depending on the internal force they may have at a given moment, but in essence they have the same objectives. They just use different tactics.

The Iran-contra case clearly illustrates this statement. When the Senate passes judgment on the Executive Branch it is not because Reagan fails to comply with the most elemental principles of international law when he acts against Nicaragua. The death of thousands of people, most of them noncombatants (women, elderly people, and children) means nothing to the U.S. Senate or the Executive Branch. The U.S. Senate's concern is that this U.S. intervention is not in line with laws issued and controlled by the U.S. Senators. As the establishment sees it, foreign policy is nothing but a tool of its domestic policies. If it decides that a particular country or leader should be attacked to win the voters' support, then that country or that leader is attacked without scruples. If the attack is to take place against a country or leader who has maintained a dignified and independent position in the face of hegemonist Yankee policies, so much the better. It is that simple.

This is why they attack "Tony" Noriega. Those who only yesterday sought out military men, changed governments, imposed systems, and approved presidents every 24 hours now want to impose norms and privileges on us. They want to hypocritically fool the world and say they are fixing things up. This is why 2 days ago we were able to hear General Vernon Walters — the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations — blabber in Miami about the "advantages of rightist dictatorships," which according to him are temporary and which "in the cases of Spain, Brazil, and Argentina stepped aside for democracy." He did not mention Chile or Paraguay and said nothing about the millions of dead and missing produced by the dictatorships the United States has procreated. Now they want us to swallow their lies about them wanting to correct the path they institutionalized as "the era of the sword" in the Central America region, where "Tachito" Somoza was their favorite boy because he was their West Point man, their "yes man", the man to be used to impose the establishment on the region.

However, the fact that the Panamanian military has given the example of nationalist and patriotic behavior by making efforts to improve the national liberation project left by Torrijos has made the establishment hysterical. This is why we see how the U.S. Executive Branch, through its ambassador in Panama, and later Congress, through Representative Solarz, have stated that U.S. economic support for Panama as well as U.S. compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties is conditioned to the exercise in Panama of democracy as they understand it and to showing respect for human rights. What democracy are they talking about? What human rights are they talking about?

In Panama there are no political prisoners and no one has been exiled (unless they decide to consider Sanchez Borbon and "Bobby" Eisenman, who are servants of the gringos, as exiles). There are two newspapers that are openly opposed to the government, and there are several radio stations that criticize daily what the government and its leaders do. The political parties are active, and party activities are a daily affair.

Since 1984 a partisan democracy has been developing with all its imperfections. Moreover, we permitted the elimination of the people's power enforced by Torrijos. We must admit self-criticism and recognize that it was a mistake to eliminate the political body that for the first time in this country's history gave the most needy the opportunity to participate in the national decisionmaking process.

Let's return to the Yankee issue and what they desire. They do not want to see us in the Contadora Group. On the contrary, they would like to see us get involved in the Central American war. They are exerting all kind of pressure to keep Law 96-70 in effect, which violates the text and spirit of the canal treaties. Furthermore, by opposing the works in Culebra Cut, they are boycotting the modernization of the canal. They are also directly conspiring with some evil Panamanians -- who are planning the Yankees' game -- at the Canal Commission and at the U.S. Congress lobby in Washington. We will talk about such "lobbys" [preceding word in English]

However, pressures do not end there. Ambassador Davis is no longer concealing his plans and has openly said that "the United States is interested in maintaining its military bases in Panama until 2018. In exchange for this, the United States is willing to hand the canal over to Panama in 1990, together with a lot of money for development works." Davis is well aware of the historic commitment of our people and their Defense Forces: "There is no doubt; we are kicking them out! Not a step backwards: 1999." Mr Davis, you cannot play with this.

Moreover, we should not forget that the people bear the heaviest burden in this struggle. They must have in-depth knowledge of the Yankee manipulations in our country. The people must also know about the anti-Panamanian policy the U.S. Administration is implementing in all sectors. Most of all, they must know about the economic policies the U.S. Government has imposed through the international financial organizations.

The World Bank and the IMF have dictated a package of adjustments to our economy that is destabilizing our economic and political system. The worst part of all is that that the empire is contradicting itself on this issue. Whereas its spokesmen are saying peace and stability are necessary for the canal's functioning and security, they [U.S. officials] are deliberately implementing their domestic security policy. In Panama's case, this has significantly affected our sugar and clothing exports to U.S. markets. The United States demands that we be more efficient to compete in terms of price and quality in its markets, and yet that country is closing its markets to us. That is how the empire is making a game out of our people's hunger.

In the history of Panama's relations with the United States, this behavior has been the norm. The pressure and force the United States is applying is so great that when these things happen some local politicians get scared "and go out with a scarf and coat because it is snowing in Washington." Some others behave as if we were still living in the times of the "naive fatherland" [patria boba, refers to period shortly after independence from Colombia]. And so we see that the group of experts directing the nation's economy have maintained a timid, weak, undignified, and cowardly stance that borders on that of a hit-and-run driver. Just as they have kept secret their commitments, without giving due explanations to the people, they have hidden their flirting with the interests of the northern colossus. Likewise, we see that these experts have been unable to present an economic proposal for our country that realistically faces the problems all of us must face. The worst thing of all is that they recklessly eschew presenting an economic plan that is nationalist, patriotic, and Panamanian.

COMMUNIST LEADER FEARS MILITARY COUP POSSIBLE

PA271344 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 26 Mar 87 p 5

[Text] Ruben Dario Sousa, secretary general of the People's Party, warned yesterday that "the tendency toward a political crisis in the country is creating conditions favorable" to another military coup.

The Panamanian communist leader made these statements at a news conference at a local hotel where, among other things, the obstacles the government has established through the Electoral Tribunal against the political parties in the process of registering, were discussed. Although Sousa said he is not in favor of a coup, he admitted "the situation we are approaching is very similar to that created in 1968, which ended in the coup of 11 October."

Just as in 1968, at present "the government sectors are in a state of political and moral bankruptcy. There is a power vacuum. There is no effort to achieve leadership, and the country's problems are increasing with no solution in view."

In Sousa's opinion, the Defense Forces "are the ones who are in a position to carry out (a coup), because they are organized. They have arms and all of the necessary tools to respond to a power crisis." Nevertheless, Sousa said that in response to a decision of this nature, much care should be taken because "no one can guarantee that the coup would solve the people's problems; on the contrary, it would be a coup to establish fascist government methods."

Upon being asked if the promoter of this coup could be General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the current commander in chief of the Defense Forces, the communist leader said that Noriega is the only person who could execute this type action on short notice.

COLUMNIST ON SENATE REJECTION OF CERTIFICATION

PA042128 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Apr 87 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] In the U.S. Senate there is rarely the unity of views needed to produce a unanimous vote, much less on issues that might have repercussions on U.S. domestic and foreign policy. The Senate resolution rejecting President Reagan's certification about Panama's alleged "total cooperation" in the efforts against drug trafficking was approved unanimously, thus becoming an exception. Even though the complexities of the U.S. legal system have given rise to controversy about the possible immediate economic effect of the resolution — a 50-percent reduction of U.S. economic aid to Panama — there is no doubt it will have vast political repercussions. On the one hand, the rejection of the certification means the Senate does not believe the veracity of the reports the administration has provided it, as the words of a senator clearly revealed when he said: "The government, my government, is not sending us an honest certification." On the other hand, the senators have shown they are concerned about the many shady affairs in our country and the U.S. Administration's efforts to conceal them. To put it in the words of one of senators: "There are too many objectionable things" in Panama. That situation, which was always an open secret to all Panamanians, was carefully concealed abroad, but now it is too well-known internationally to be kept hidden. Unfortunately, the Panamanian governments that have succeeded each other since 1968 have lacked the necessary political and moral courage to correct the vices, abuses, and excesses of those who have caused so much harm to our country. Let us not forget that the Senate vote is not only a judgment on Panama's rulers, but also on the Panamanians who have tolerated them. That is why all of us will pay the consequences, which will be greater the longer it takes to recover the lost national honor.

Ambassador to U.S. Recalled

PA062214 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2146 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Panama City, 6 Apr (DPA) — The Panamanian Government has recalled its ambassador to Washington, Kaiser Bazan, for consultations.

This is the first official reaction by the Panamanian Government after the U.S. Senate recommended on Thursday that the U.S. aid to Panama be cut in response to Panama's limited cooperation in the fight against drugs.

On the other hand, Panama has appointed a National Commission Against Drug Traffic [Comision Nacional Contra el Narcotrafico] comprising high-ranking officials, including Panama's attorney general. Some local newspapers today published comments on the Senate's decision, harshly criticizing the United States and describing the senators as blackmailers.

Neither the Presidency nor the Foreign Affairs Ministry have issued any statements, but a senior government official who asked to remain anonymous said that a tempest in a teapot is being created because what the Senate has done is make a request to President Reagan, and we are certain President Reagan will not comply with the request and will continue helping Panama.

COSTA RICANEWSPAPER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT MISUSE OF FUNDS

PA030406 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Mar 87 p 12

[Editorial: "This Is How the Commotion Began"]

[Text] Deputy Luis Fischman has stated he has evidence that proves the "paid advertisements" that appeared in the press on behalf of the National Liberation Party [PLN] were paid with public funds by the Presidential House. Although the amount is insignificant -- and regardless of what entity or person received the benefit of the payment -- this is something that cannot be ignored. The commotion at the National Emergency Fund began when small amounts of national monies were used for other purposes, which eventually led to the embezzlement of hundreds of millions of colons. These situations -- that often begin as a result of a weakness -- usually end up as true moral and economic catastrophes, and must be denounced, punished, and stopped from the very beginning.

With the electoral factors now added to the case we are denouncing, and because a political party and its officials are involved, the case will probably be confused with other arguments having to do with this circumstance. There will be an attempt to hide the reason behind the whole issue that we feel has to do with the misuse of national funds that were destined for one purpose but were used for another.

After examining the facts, we must conclude that they point out that a foolish and unnecessary procedure was used, because what really happened is that the Presidential House ordered through its funds the publication of the PLN political directorate's opinion, which was in favor of the tax readjustment law, otherwise known as the "tax package" that the executive branch wanted approved. We feel that the Presidential House could very well have ordered the publication of a favorable opinion of a political party, as it frequently does with the opinions of other entities or private persons. Instead of doing it in this manner, without covering up or deceiving the people, it decided to follow the path of lies and make it appear as if the advertisement had been done at the initiative and expense of the PLN. In doing it in this manner, it used the intelligence of a mouse and deviated funds, which is totally unacceptable. If we let this go by now, a door will be open for more corruption in the future.

In the face of this case, we must make an effort to clean out the electoral pro-Arias issues that are confusing, so we will devote our attention to the very essence of the issue. We must remember what has been said and the experience we had with the Emergency Fund. This fund fell apart, because it began having small problems, with no apparent importance, but later it became a deluge of corruption. As the saying goes, he who steals a little, steals a lot; therefore, since this is true, it is our duty to try to prevent this in time.

USSR-SOUGHT UKRAINIAN SURRENDERS TO POLICE

PA040106 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2025 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] San Jose, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- After he threatened to commit suicide if authorities detained him, a Ukrainian living in Costa Rica about to be extradited to the Soviet Union for presumed crimes during the Nazi regime, surrendered to the police today.

The extradition of Bodhan Koziy is being sought by the Soviet Union for alleged crimes against civilians while he held a police post under the Nazi regime between 1942 and 1944 during World War II. Koziy held authorities at bay for 2 days, threatening to take his life if the police tried to arrest him.

Government Minister Rolando Ramirez told the press at noon that last night he took a priest and a doctor to Koziy's home to try and convince him the best he could do was turn himself over to the authorities, who must detain him by orders of a court.

After a dialogue that lasted until nearly 0200 "without witnesses or reporters," the Ukrainian agreed to surrender to the police. He was interned at the San Agustin Minimum Security Prison, where he will stay until he is sent to the Soviet Union.

EL SALVADOR

PCN, ARENA DEPUTIES VIEW PARLIAMENTARY STRIKE

PA032350 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] PCN [National Conciliation Party] deputies said today that the parliamentary opposition will continue its strike because conditions do not yet exist for ending it. Leaders of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] expressed the same view, stating their party will not change its position based on momentary political situations.

The first day of work of the legislature of the Blue Room following the October earthquake did not include the suspension of the parliamentary strike. According to Hugo Carrillo [PCN leader], some points of the electoral document have yet to be resolved. Calderon Sol [ARENA leader] said ARENA cannot lend itself to agreements or arrangements that sacrifice constitutional precepts.

[Begin recording] [Carrillo] The PCN has not said when the strike will be resolved. What we have said is that some agreements have been reached which make possible the lifting of the strike at the moment we believe conditions exist to do so.

[Reporter] What are the new favorable conditions to which you refer and are waiting for?

[Carrillo] We have been talking with our opposition colleagues and have made some progress. We will have to wait to make a final decision. We are respectful of the ARENA positions. We have tried to make them a little more aware of the situation and make them understand that if the reason for the strike was the issue of the concentration of power in the hands of Dr Samayoa in the Central Electoral Council [CCE] and if that problem has been resolved, then there is no reason to continue the strike. We have been working on this. It will take a few days, but results are about to be achieved regarding ending the strike. [end recording]

Carrillo clarified that alliances are always circumstantial and this does not mean that one or another party is being politically used. Meanwhile, ARENA Deputy Armando Calderon Sol said that although he respects the PCN decision, in his opinion the PCN has already begun to lift the parliamentary strike by accompanying the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] on its trip to Washington. However, Calderon Sol said his party does not act according to circumstances but on the basis of constitutional principles and concepts it is not willing to give up.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] In the opinion of the PCN, the fundamental objection that led to the parliamentary strike was that Dr Samayoa held most of the power in the CCE. They think this point has in some way already been resolved in this document. Why are you continuing the strike despite this?

[Calderon Sol] Partly because Dr Samayoa presently concentrates all the power of the CCE in himself. The reforms to the reforms that the PCN showed us include three different things: The CCE's positions will no longer be decided by majority vote, but by unanimity. Other CCE positions will be decided by the CCE president accompanied by any of the other councilmen, and still other CCE positions will be decided on by majority. [sentence as heard] The principle that the CCE resolutions should be decided on by majority is being violated, because the reforms establish that certain things are to be decided on by unanimity and this becomes a veto, because one single negative vote is really a veto and no resolution could be passed. [end recording]

The Thursday plenary session was held without incident. It began an hour later with the attendance of PDC deputies only. There were only 31 of them this time. That session approved several motions including one of Legislative Assembly President Guillermo Antonio Guevara Lacayo to appoint a commission to investigate the purchase of vehicles -- with exemption from customs duty -- by the last three Legislative Assembly presidents.

ANEP ADVISER ON UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF WAR TAX

PA031802 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Report on interview with Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth, adviser of the National Association of Private Enterprise, ANEP, by Alfredo Villareal; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Villareal] Jose Antonio Rodriguez Porth has described the current armed conflict in the country as a domestic war among Salvadorans. During an interview, Rodriguez Porth -- promoter of the declaration of unconstitutionality of the war taxes -- rejected a statement made by General Adolfo Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen Blandon has said that any Salvadoran who does not realize there is a war in the country is far from reality. Rodriguez Porth also noted that the country is not being attacked by foreign forces.

[Rodriguez Porth] Gen Blandon said that anyone who believes there is no war here is not aware of the national reality. He was not referring to me, because I have not said that. If Gen Blandon wanted to point at me, he is very wrong. Furthermore, Gen Blandon mentioned something about a predisposition not to pay taxes. I am surprised that Gen Blandon said this, because he has just told the press that he had to admit the government does not have competent legal advisers. Therefore, he admitted the decree is unconstitutional, as declared by the court, because it violates the political Constitution. Gen Blandon said that obviously the government does not have the right legal advisers, which is true. So the problem is not an unwillingness to pay the tax, because anyone affected by the tax only cares about their own interests. No one is obliged to pay something that is illegal and against the Constitution.

[Villareal] Rodriguez Porth stressed that the productive sector has never refused to pay taxes, but has abstained from paying illegal taxes.

[Rodriguez Porth] Gen Blandon is wrong. The productive sector has never refused to pay taxes established according to the law. That has been clearly said. What no one wants to pay are illegal taxes, established by the government violating the political Constitution. There is no obligation in such cases. However, if the taxes -- and the government has been told what the right procedures should be for this -- are duly established, there would be no reason for not paying them. Furthermore, we understand the Armed Forces needs funds to defend the country's institutionality in view of the domestic war. I must stress this because I do not want to be misinterpreted. It is false that the people, the Salvadoran citizens affected by the measure -- because it is not the private sector only, but all citizens...[changes thought] The reason why there was a reluctance to pay was because it was an illegal measure which was unconstitutional. It is not because anyone has placed his personal interests before those of the country. Gen Blandon is wrong if he thinks so.

[Villareal] However, the Armed Forces maintain that we are facing foreign attacks from Soviet bloc countries, mainly through Nicaragua, by advising the FMLN guerrillas. The Army sees this as foreign aggression. Hence, they contend that we are facing a war with other countries, and therefore they need economic support.

[Rodriguez Porth] The fact that there may be foreign influences, foreign aid, in a domestic war is not new. We know that there is Nicaraguan, Cuban, and even Soviet collaboration. In the same way, our government receives U.S. military and economic aid to face the struggle. This does not change the fact that the struggle is among Salvadorans. It is essentially a struggle among Salvadorans. It is a domestic struggle, a civil war. It is not an international war. So the fact that there is aid...[changes thought]. For instance, we know what happened in Spain during the civil war. You know that the Spanish Republic, the Republican government, received Soviet aid; in the same way General Franco received aid from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. However, there was never an international war in Spain; there was a civil war.

[Villareal] Rodriguez Porth noted that the unconstitutionality of the so-called war tax has been detrimental to the Army from the viewpoint of its implementation. However, he added, if a law is correctly passed, the Armed Forces -- which have been conducting an anti-guerrilla war for 7 years -- could receive the necessary financial support.

INTERVIEW WITH FMLN COMMANDER REBECA PALACIOS

PA032115 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 29 Mar 87 p 12

[Part Two of interview with FMLN Commander Rebeca Palacios by Gregorio Selser; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Do you believe the number of guerrillas has increased?

Rebeca Palacios: Yes. Not only has the number of guerrillas increased; the overall popular movement has made a big leap, particularly in 1986, which really gave the Salvadoran revolution a new perspective. As you may recall, after 1981 there was a sharp decline in the number of supporters, and the revolution endured through the FMLN military actions. The reverse is now true. There is an entire new generation of fighters, militias, underground guerrillas, and new mobile guerrilla units, in addition to a mass movement that is essential for revolutionary victory. The problem of taking power is 90 percent resolved when people are active.

Question: That sounds pretty optimistic.

Rebeca Palacios: I do not believe so. The situation is an about-face for the enemy, who is so aware of this that it is now attempting to carry out a new strategy more in line with developments in a low-intensity war. The enemy is using more politics, civic action, and psychological warfare. It has pushed aside "Operation Phoenix," and is instead launching the United to Rebuild Plan (UPR). This is basically a military plan, although since the beginning, attempts have been made to portray it as an overall social and pacification plan directed by the high command. In practice it is nothing but another military counterinsurgency plan, the aims of which -- as proclaimed by the enemy -- are to "isolate the guerrillas from the people both physically and psychologically"; prevent the FMLN from becoming stronger, and "win over the hearts and minds of the people" to the pro-Yankee government. [passage omitted]

Question: It is said that Duarte knew the murderers of the four U.S. nuns and Archbishop Romero, but they were so close to him that admitting it would have been suicidal. Duarte, as a Catholic, refused to commit suicide.

Rebeca Palacios: Defense Minister Vides Casanova was the director of the National Guard when guards raped and murdered the nuns. That is why the investigation never went forward. Two privates were imprisoned for the sake of appearances, but no one dared lay a finger on the mastermind of that crime, the director of the guard. It is unlikely that anyone will.

Question: It was the same with [Roberto] D'Aubuisson and Archbishop Romero's killing. Colonel Majano had all the information.

Rebeca Palacios: There was more proof in the D'Aubuisson affair. However, how could Duarte do anything? D'Aubuisson was president of the Legislative Assembly. Now he is a deputy. That would mean one of our country's lawmakers murdered Msgr Romero.

Question: Colonel Santibanez told a U.S. Congressional Committee under oath that the murderer was a Nicaraguan known as "El Chino" Lau, who was hired by the Salvadoran military to do the killing. What do you think?

Rebeca Palacios: That could be, but it would be more interesting to find out who ordered and planned that death and who stood to gain by it. On this topic of human rights, you may recall that a scandal broke out last year on the kidnapping of businessmen. The rebels were being blamed. However, it was discovered that the kidnappings were planned at the Cavalry Battalion headquarters and that Arce Battalion Commander Colonel Staben was head of that kidnapping operation, the sole aim of which was to collect ransom. Major Zacapa, also with the Cavalry Battalion, was also implicated, as well as a 4th Brigade lieutenant who is a cripple. Llovera Valet was made the scapegoat. Upset over this, he blew the whistle on all the officers involved. They used military vehicles and uniforms during the kidnappings. Do you think anything was done to stop this corruption and punish the guilty? No. There were no trials. The military men involved in the affair, including Staben -- who was promoted from lieutenant colonel to colonel -- received promotions early in the year. Another crook, a Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez, whose thefts and mishandlings of funds while he was posted in the United States were discovered, was "rewarded" with the position of Chief of Intendancy. [passage omitted]

Question: What is the goal of the "United to Rebuild Plan" and what is being done at this time?

Rebeca Palacios: The original plan was to include the church, oligarchy, private sector, unions and cooperatives, all under their [not further identified] influence. They audaciously presented this plan to the popular organizations.... [passage omitted]

Question: Eugene Hasenfus' statements disclosed that Ilopango, the main Salvadoran Air Force base, was a stopover airport for the traffic of weapons for the contras, via Costa Rica or Honduras. Hasenfus provided the names or pseudonyms of at least 63 people in charge of the services in Ilopango base. He also gave precise information about the safe houses in San Salvador, where these people were living. Would you say that Duarte was unaware of all the things that Air Force General Juan Rafael Bustillo, chief of the Air Force, consented to?

Rebeca Palacios: Duarte is lying, because at the end newsmen forced him to admit he knew about the results of the investigation. First he said he knew nothing, that there would be an investigation and the results reported. Then he said he could not give the results because this was a state secret. It is also false that only the 55 gringo "advisers" authorized by the Congress are in El Salvador. The names provided by Hasenfus have nothing to do with the 55 advisers. There are the 12 safe houses in Escalon neighborhood which belong to the bourgeoisie; and one must also include those they call "medical advisers," those at the hospital for the crippled. There are more, many more than they have admitted, and although they do not participate on the firing line, they do participate in the immediate rearguard and in the tactical command of the units or battalions.

During the last operation they conducted in Chalatenango, a "Yankee" adviser arrived in the area to verify the resettlement operation. He brazenly talked to the people. This was in a "war area." They entered the outskirts of Guazapa to personally view the results of the United to Rebuild Plan. They also advise the Air Force on how to conduct the indiscriminate bombings. An area in northern San Miguel was recently bombed. Children and elderly people were killed as a result. There was another well-known bombing in Ocotal, Chalatenango. The people there were not organized. There were no politics in that town, but since this is an area under control -- although it was not a guerrilla area -- they regarded it as a military objective. They all but destroyed the town. People had no shelter areas, no combat or defense experience. Many people were killed or injured. More than 100 manzanas of crops were destroyed in Cinquera. What did this mean? Complete poverty and hunger for the coming years. There were no combatants in that town, it was not a combat or refuge area....

Question: The Air Force drops bombs and napalm and sprays herbicides. Is this how they destroy crops?

Rebeca Palacios: No, [as published] they set them on fire or cut them. It may seem ridiculous, but even the Atlacatl Battalion cuts crops with machetes, sets corn plantations on fire, and pulls bean plants out. It is an elite battalion devoted to destroying crops. Of course this really happens. They mine any place that has not been ruined. Their policy now is to mine populated areas to blame the FMLN and pressure us so we do not use mines against the Army. There are zones that have not yet been reached by the guerrillas, where there are many people, which have been mined. The FMLN only mines areas under its control. Whoever enters such zones goes under FMLN coordination or to fight. If a mine explodes there it is because someone went looking for it. However, the Army is indiscriminately mining populated areas to create a political effect....

Question: What about the spy planes, those very sophisticated planes which they have in their bases in Palmerola, Honduras?

Rebeca Palacios: There are espionage flights from dawn to dusk. Being in that area is like being downtown at noon: Planes are overflying the area and territory all day long. There are surveillance flights all day and night; the flights are reduced at night, but the results are laughable, they accomplish nothing positive. [passage omitted]

Question: Don't they use electronic devices, equipment for night vision or infrared sensors that can even detect the heat of a human body and other much talked about marvels of weaponry?

Rebeca Palacios: Well, in addition to the fact that we have improved camouflage and cover up tactics in combat, it would be very stupid for them to use devices that can detect the presence of humans in El Salvador, which has a great population density. They would need the opposite. They would need a device that could tell them where there are no people because that is what is uncommon. No, that would be a ridiculous thing to have and besides, guerrilla units are always 15 or 20 minutes away from any town or village. No, espionage is carried out during the day. The guerrillas have learned to move during the day or at night under Air Force surveillance. However, the spying is useless because they have not been able to stop a single FMLN attack or prevent FMLN troops from penetrating, such as in the attack on the 3d Brigade in San Miguel, the country's third largest city. To go from Morazan to San Miguel one has to go a long way, and even though our troops were many, they were not caught. Neither their Air Force nor their "ears" on land worked, even though the guerrillas passed through populated areas.

I would say that the effectiveness of the Air Force is relative. Its effect is more psychological in nature. The fact is it is terrible for the nonfighting civilian population because it is defenseless, unarmed, and untrained. The Air Force has forced us to make certain adjustments in our tactics and movements, but it has not been able to stop our activity. Our casualties come from direct clashes on land. The Air Force has inflicted few casualties on our units, and it is not because their planes and helicopters are inactive. In November, in a controlled area of Chalatenango, there were no less than 30 troop landings. There we damaged some helicopters. One was downed, and their paratroopers suffered casualties. On the other hand, the FMLN casualties could be counted on one hand.

Question: Are the activities of the helicopter airborne troops effective?

Rebeca Palacios: We believe they are not, even though they deliver unpredictable and quick blows and are impressive at the beginning. [passage omitted]

Question: Does the salary freeze apply to the military security forces, the judicial and legislative branch, and the bureaucratic-administrative apparatus?

Rebeca Palacios: No, the law applies especially to the private sector; workers and employees. The government approved ridiculous wage increases for itself. For example, this year after many struggles, government workers received a wage increase of 100 colons, some \$20. The workers had been demanding 300 colons (\$1 equals 5 colons, the official exchange rate). There were more demonstrations, and after the approval of the ridiculous wage increase, Public Workers Ministry workers have gone 3 months without receiving their checks. The military has a different wage scale. The military is something else entirely, because besides receiving wage increase, military officials receive income from corrupt activities, in which most of them are involved. Bandon's dirty business, regarding a ship full of weapons, was uncovered in Panama.

Question: Oh! The Pia Vesta, the Danish ship?

Rebeca Palacios: Yes it was Bandon's big dirty business, but he gave no explanation and it was quickly forgotten. It was an arms smuggling deal. Other top officials became rich with other dirty businesses, dens of iniquity and vice. Corruption also exists in the low levels to keep the troops happy. War is an incentive because of the money that is pocketed and stolen. The gringos will donate \$100 million "because of the earthquake." The people will see very little or none of this money. They will say part of the money will be allocated for war and the private sector will keep the rest, however military officials will keep a major portion.

GUATEMALA

DUARTE 'UNEXPECTEDLY' ARRIVES TO MEET WITH CEREZO

PA061922 Paris AFP in Spanish 1850 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Apr (AFP) -- Official sources have confirmed that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived unexpectedly in Guatemala today to meet with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo.

Duarte arrived in Guatemala City at 1000 aboard a Salvadoran Air Force plane, and he immediately traveled by helicopter to the Santo Tomas presidential ranch, located 15 km from the capital, where Cerezo is staying.

Unofficial sources indicated that the unexpected Duarte-Cerezo meeting is reportedly related to the visit that Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will make to Guatemala Wednesday.

Among other topics, De la Madrid will discuss with Cerezo the prospects for a peace agreement in Central America in the framework of the Contadora Group [words indistinct] to be held in this country.

NICARAGUASALVADORAN PRESIDENT PLEDGES SUPPORT TO CDN MISSION

PA032121 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0022 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President [Jose Napoleon Duarte] has pledged "great moral support" to the leaders of the political opposition in Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan delegation members reported today.

Oscar Rosales said "the best tangible evidence of the interest expressed by the Salvadoran president is that he met with our delegation for more than 5 hours, listened to us, and pledged his support to us."

Rosales is a leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), which gathers Liberals, Conservatives, Social Christians and Social Democrats, as well as two unions and the largest business organization.

As part of its tour through Central America, the Nicaraguan opposition delegation met yesterday in El Salvador with President Jose Napoleon Duarte and with Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta. The CDN members have also met with the Costa Rican and Honduran presidents to present their "observations" on the peace plan proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. This plan proposes among other points, a cease-fire in the countries in conflict, electoral processes that would end in 1988 with the designation of deputies to a Central American parliament, and a halt to all foreign aid to the "contras."

Another CDN member, Roger Guevara Mena, said: "President Arias' peace plan seems feasible to us. It has been made by Central Americans; however, it needs various modifications." Guevara Mena explained that the modifications proposed by the CDN, which they have presented to the area governments, seek to make the Sandinist government hold a dialogue with the political and military opposition inside and outside Nicaragua. "We as political opposition cannot represent the military sectors struggling against the regime," Guevara Mena said.

Moreover, the CDN proposed that following the signing of the peace [plan] they should be assured that the Sandinist government promises to give "proof of goodwill," such as a general amnesty, cease-fire, and freedom of press and religion. The CDN said the Sandinists should promote "true elections, which should begin by establishing a true constituent assembly that drafts a political constitution that would truly guarantee the democratic rights of the Nicaraguan people."

During the anti-Sandinists' news conference, held in a San Salvador hotel, the CDN members expressed their opposition to the Contadora Group (Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) peace efforts. "After 4 years, Contadora has not produced the expected results. President Arias' peace plan among other things, will do so because it is an initiative born in Central America," Oscar Rosales said. "Thus far, Contadora's result is that it has avoided a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua, and it has consolidated and justified the Sandinist regime," Rosales added.

The delegation, also composed of Adan Fletes, Azucena Ferreiro and Miriam Arguello, left today for Guatemala, where it will meet with President Vinicio Cerezo.

BORGE ON UPCOMING COSTA RICAN DELEGATION VISIT

PA050327 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1917 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Central American rulers must have the courage to confront U.S. pressures, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, said today. The Sandinist commander added that the foremost leaders of the region must have "serenity in order not to let themselves be deluded by siren songs," as well as "a sense of reality so as to be aware that we Central Americans must resolve our own problems."

These statements were made by the interior minister when ACAN-EFE asked him what it is the Sandinists expect from the Costa Rican Government officials with whom they will meet next week in this capital.

It was announced in San Jose that a Costa Rican mission will visit Nicaragua next week to discuss the "Arias plan" for the pacification of Central America plus any other subjects the two parties might decide upon.

The Costa Rican delegation will be made up of Enrique Obregon, former ambassador to Spain, Farid Ayales, ambassador to Nicaragua, and Abel Pacheco, opposition leader.

The commander said the Sandinists will meet and talk with the Costa Rican mission. He pointed out that "there might be possibilities of improving relations which is what we all want."

Concerning the "Arias plan," Borge affirmed it is "additional input" for the upcoming Central American presidential summit to be held at the end of this month in Esquipulas, Guatemala. The 10-point "Arias plan" was presented in the Costa Rican capital in February by Oscar Arias Sanchez at a meeting attended by all the Central American presidents, except Nicaragua's.

Borge was questioned by newsmen at the presidential house where he had gone to announce that on the 22d, 23d, and 24th of this month a multiethnic conference will be held in Puerto Cabezas, the principal city on the Atlantic Coast. The draft bill concerning the Atlantic Coast autonomous regions will be revealed and discussed at that time. It is not known exactly when the draft will be sent to the National Assembly.

UNO DOCUMENT ON REORGANIZATION, COPTER DOWNINGS

PA252208 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 21

[Communique issued by Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, date and place not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) hereby notifies Nicaraguans and the public in general: The struggle for the liberation of our fatherland continues unchanged. The vacancy left by Dr [Adolfo] Calero was filled by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, who was unanimously elected by the assembly. Soon the assembly will elect Mr [Arturo] Cruz' replacement.

More than 15,000 freedom commandos are struggling in the central, northern, southern, and eastern parts of our national territory. They are constantly exerting pressure on the Marxist-Leninist regime of Managua. Through the effective use of modern weapons with which they are now equipped, they downed two Soviet-made MI-24 helicopter gunships and seriously damaged a third in the last 2 weeks.

In the political sphere, all the organizations and structures that comprise the UNO are working very well together with great patriotism to carry out the necessary changes that will give the UNO greater representativeness and political support from all Nicaraguans and the free world. This is necessary to achieve and build a free Nicaragua.

Some of these changes are as follows: increasing the National Directorate so it includes representatives from the four democratic ideological trends: Liberal, Conservatives, Social Christian, and Social Democrat.

According to the regulations in effect, the UNO Assembly will be increased to include representatives from the political parties and from the political and war veterans organizations that are currently not included. And also, a merger of the entire democratic opposition in exile into one single organization, with a single political goal, as established in the document of commitment of the Nicaraguan democratic resistance dated 10 January 1987.

'ARSONISTS' DESTROY SUGARCANE; 'MILLIONS' LOST

PA021428 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] This is a report from Chinandega. A new fire in the sugarcane fields of the German Pomares Sugar Mill, [word indistinct] Municipality, which started in the vicinity of the (Santa Virginia) area, has destroyed 65 manzanas that were ready for harvesting.

With this fire, 760 manzanas have been burned during 200 days of harvest; as a result, production has dropped considerably. This was reported exclusively for the "Revolution newscast" last night by mill director Manuel Mida, the labor union, and the Civil Defense staff of the German Pomares Ordonez Sugar complex.

According to the leaders, these fires were started by arsonists. The fires have caused losses in the millions [currency not specified] in production to the people's sector of the German Pomares Sugar Mill.

The comrades also said the sugar mill will need 200 workers during the last 2 months of the harvest to catch up on lost production. They need 200 harvesters during that period to improve sugar production -- something which is needed so much by our people -- the comrade leaders of the German Pomares Ordonez Sugar Mill added.

MIGUEL D'ESCOTO CONTINUES TRIP IN AFRICA

For additional coverage of Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's trip to Africa, including his visits to Ivory Coast and Ghana, see the West Africa section of the 6 April Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

REPORT BRANDS U.S. SUGAR MOVE PART OF 'BLOCKADE'

PA031909 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Amid bitter controversy, the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee has authorized President Reagan to cut economic aid to countries importing Cuban sugar.

The proposal, introduced by Democrat Larry Smith, was approved after a heated debate between its supporters and opponents, who argued that the measure will only succeed in further deteriorating the relations between the two countries.

Observers said the measure is part of the economic blockade that Washington has maintained against Cuba for the past 25 years despite domestic and international objections.

ANPP VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES VOSKANYAN DELEGATION

FL061245 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1214 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Severo Aguirre Del Cristo, Vice President of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, has accorded the most cordial welcome to Grant Mushegovich Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who heads a delegation of Armenian parliamentarians visiting our country. Voskanyan, who is also chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet, expressed appreciation for the invitation and confirmed the ties of friendship that bind the parliamentarians and peoples of Cuba and the Soviet Union. Voskanyan gave some details of the changes under way in the USSR aimed at applying all the advantages of developed socialism. He reported that there will be elections for deputies soon and spoke of the broadening of electoral rights.

Severo Aguirre explained Cuba's parliamentary system and its democratic nature. He said that Cuba is following the Soviet process with interest.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH GDR'S KLEIBER 26 MAR

AU021407 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 28-29 Mar 87 pp 1-2

[Text] Havana (ADN) -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, received Guenther Kleiber, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, in Havana on Thursday evening [26 March].

Guenther Kleiber conveyed a personal message from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, to Fidel Castro. The Cuban party and state leader expressed thanks for the message and asked that cordial greetings be conveyed to his friend and fellow fighter, Erich Honecker.

The friendly exchange of views focused on questions of both parties' domestic and foreign policy work since the 11th SED Congress and the Third PCC Congress.

The interlocutors paid tribute to the high level of bilateral cooperation. The further development of fraternal relations between the GDR and Cuba, between the SED and the PCC is directed at making an effective contribution to strengthening the socialist community and to consolidating peace. Guenther Kleiber stressed that the GDR consistently implements the policy of dynamic and intensive economic and social development, which was decided by the 11th party congress. This development results from the further implementation — under today's conditions — of the course of the unity of economic and social policy, which has proved its worth for 1 and 1/2 decades. A decisive role is played in this by the broad application of the key technologies for the people's benefit. All these tasks are being solved with the initiative and active participation of the working people, said Guenther Kleiber.

Fidel Castro pointed out the great efforts of the Cuban people to implement the tasks posed by the Third PCC Congress and the first party program decided there. He reported on the good results Cuba has achieved in more effectively shaping social development in the national economy and in looking for solutions in line with Cuba's concrete conditions of development. The politicians expressed the full support of both parties and states for the most recent USSR initiative to liquidate Soviet and American intermediate-range missiles in Europe. They assess this proposal as a historic chance to gradually achieve the great goal of eliminating all nuclear missiles and of freeing mankind from the imminent danger of self-destruction.

The talks, which took place in a very cordial and open-minded atmosphere, were attended by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers; GDR Ambassador to Cuba Karlheinz Moebus; and Ramiro del Rio Perez-Teran, Cuban ambassador to the GDR.

ESQUIVEL, BULGARIA'S LUKANOV VIEW JOINT TIES

FL252136 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The presidents of the Cuban-Bulgarian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation have met in Havana to review the state of cooperation between the two countries in the field of machine building. Cuba was represented at the meeting by Antonio Esquivel Yedra, vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, while Bulgaria was represented by Andrey Lukanov, first deputy chairman of Bulgaria's Council of Ministers. Esquivel and Lukanov talked about ways to establish long-term cooperation plans between the two countries as specified in an agreement signed in 1986 by President Fidel Castro and Chairman Todor Zhivkov.

Bulgaria strongly supports Cuba's plans for the development of the nickel, citrus, and sugar industries, and oil prospecting, and has granted advantageous loans to be used in these fields.

BRAVO HEADS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION TO PRC

FL061546 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1413 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] A delegation of the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba, headed by Flavio Bravo, will visit the PRC between 7 and 14 April at the invitation of the National People's Congress.

U.S.-HONDURAN MANEUVERS 'LARGEST' IN AREA

PA020249 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Report by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] Hello, friends. Greetings from Havana. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official said a few days ago that it would be difficult to find a region in the world as small as Central America where a superpower had carried out war exercises like those the United States has carried out there.

That is the way it is. Right now, more than 4,000 U.S. soldiers have initiated the military maneuvers called "General Vincente Tosta 87." These maneuvers are taking place in the Honduran departments of Choluteca, El Paraiso, Olancho, and Gracias A Dios, all of them located along the border with Nicaragua. It is worthwhile noting that these exercises will eventually be joined by U.S. Air Force maneuvers and later by part of the huge "Solid Shield" naval maneuvers in the Caribbean Sea.

While it is true that these will be the largest maneuvers held in the area, it must be noted that more than 100,000 U.S. soldiers have been in Honduran territory to participate in 25 military exercises over the past 5 years.

In the midst of all this military mobilization, U.S. military engineers have installed six landing fields, several communications bases, and various logistic constructions in Honduras.

Although the Honduran and U.S. military have given several explanations on the objectives of the maneuvers, the truth is that they are taking place near Nicaraguan territory, and this represents a direct threat to Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Government has charged this on several occasions, and recently President Daniel Ortega characterized the exercises as the training of troops to directly intervene against the Sandinist revolution. In response to this, the Nicaraguan people, who are able to fight, have reached an advanced degree of military organization, and the people have been armed.

All this represents the warning that if there is an invasion, the people of Nicaragua will know how to face it.

U.S. 'WAGING WAR OF PROPAGANDA' ON NICARAGUA

PA040433 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Noberto Hernandez]

[Text] On several occasions we have said that if a nation like the United States were to take the intelligence of its scientists and the large budget it devotes to war and place it at the service of just causes, the United States could then not only solve its many and difficult domestic problems but also alleviate the situation of the many countries it is now attacking.

However, this is impossible, because the self-styled powerful nation is only interested in waging war in all aspects as a means to continue controlling peoples and maintaining the capitalist system. With this introduction, today we wish to discuss one aspect of the war of aggression the United States is waging in Central America: penetrating the massive communications media and particularly radio. It is very clear to everyone that Nicaragua is the object of the offensive launched by the U.S. Administration in Central America. In addition to the now overt attacks, it is waging a war of propaganda and psychological action as never seen before.

On 15 January, the so-called Radio Liberacion began broadcasting on medium wave and shortwave, covering the entire Nicaraguan territory. The strange name identifies the new station that claims to be the mouthpiece of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, a counterrevolutionary band that has lost all prestige. Although the situation claims to be broadcasting from somewhere in Costa Rica, it is believed it operates from a Salvadoran military base and that President Jose Napoleon Duarte fully approves.

The new radio is in addition to the so-called Radio 15 September that operates out of Honduras and claims to represent another mercenary organization, the FDN. There are also two other radio stations: Costa Rican Radio Impacto, which appears to be a commercial station and was at the service of chieftain Eden Pastora; and another shortwave station also at the service of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

It is interesting to note that El Salvador and Honduras have not signed the agreements on radio broadcasting frequencies as established by the International Telecommunication Union, and therefore, the two countries are violating worldwide regulations. To these irregularities we must add the fact that as a whole these radio stations are joining efforts in the dishonest task of broadcasting disinformation to the Nicaraguan people while at the same time broadcasting the counterrevolutionary propaganda placed completely at the service of the war promoted and financed by the United States.

It is advisable now to return to the beginning of our commentary. If instead of waging war with radio stations the U.S. Government were to avail itself of such an important communications media for educational and scientific actions, the situation of many Latin American countries would be quite different. However, the current U.S. Administration continues this offensive in which it has been defeated from the very beginning, because even though it is engaged in a tremendous radio broadcasting campaign, it has not managed to confuse or decrease the bravery of the Nicaraguans.

REPORT BLAMES U.S., DUARTE FOR COFFEE 'CRISIS'

PA050422 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 87

["Economic News" report read by Mario Montes and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The coffee industry is undergoing a crisis which the sector leaders attribute to the economic policy of Jose Napoleon Duarte's regime, particularly to his desperate search for resources with which to finance the confrontation with the insurgent forces.

In previous years the month of March was still harvest time in the Salvadoran coffee plantations. This year, however, the harvest was already over in March and the trees were being pruned to obtain a new harvest in September.

The reduction of the time of work is due to the status of permanent violence which the government's Army maintains in the agricultural areas as part of a plan conceived in Washington for cutting off what the Pentagon specialists term the social bases of the guerrillas. The Salvadoran coffee growers, moreover, lack the necessary resources to replant, fumigate, and fertilize because a large part of those resources are spent for military operations.

Even though the pro-United States news media and people committed to the Duarte regime are attempting to blame the guerrillas for the coffee disaster, Francisco Garcia Rosi, president of the local coffee association, affirmed that the official economic policy is the sector's worst enemy. For Garcia Rosi, the serious problems started in 1980 when the government — elected under Washington's pressures — started to implement a so-called agrarian reform and assumed control of foreign trade as a means of obtaining resources for the war.

Those were the days when Ronald Reagan first became President and implemented at once his foreign policy program, based on warlike aggression against Nicaragua and the Central American liberation movements.

The pillage of income practiced by the Salvadoran regime leaves the farmers without resources, and, as a consequence, coffee production has decreased by 50 percent in the last 6 years.

For those who like to blame the guerrillas for all national economic disasters, it should suffice to cite Francisco Garcia Rosi's statements, admitting that the counterinsurgency actions hardly affect coffee production. The government policy has been much more harmful, really, the agricultural leader emphasized. Past records indicate that in 1960 the area in El Salvador devoted to coffee production neared 190,000 hectares. Today, it is only one half of that, and the cultivated portion is not even producing its full potential.

It is estimated that El Salvador, considered the world's third largest coffee producer, dropped to third place in the Central American region's production. This shows the degree of impoverishment in that sector. To the already serious situation is added the sudden fall of coffee prices in the international market, which this year will cause the country to lose \$200 million. For the regime this will signify a loss of \$80 million in exports taxes.

The Salvadoran coffee problems point directly at the Duarte regime as the guilty party of such a disaster. It is no wonder that the war tax the regime has attempted to create has received such general rejection. It has been rejected even by the private sector, which, up until not very long ago, was of the opinion that it was necessary to defeat the guerrillas.

FMLN'S DIAZ VIEWS RESULTS OF EL PARAISO ATTACK

PA051351 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Interview with Salvadoran FMLN Commander Nidia Diaz by Ramon Chong; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Chong] Commander, what importance has the recent victory [in El Paraiso] had for the Salvadoran guerrilla movement?

[Diaz] This victory mainly shows the people of El Salvador and the world that the FMLN is capable of successfully carrying out this type of maneuver involving a large number of forces. It was an attack on the main garrison of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which suffered approximately 650 casualties. The Azmitia Battalion, which was stationed there, has been left practically annihilated. This is also the case of the Cobra Battalion, specialized long-range reconnaissance patrols, military intelligence figures, and advisers. The casualties in El Paraiso also include the first U.S. adviser killed in combat.

[Chong] In other words, this shows the U.S. interference in El Salvador and shows the world that the United States violates international law by meddling in the internal affairs of the country.

[Diaz] Of course, he [the U.S. adviser] is, in effect, the seventh American to be killed on Salvadoran soil even though, as U.S. spokesmen said, he is their first combatant [as heard] to be killed. This week another American, [a member] of the CIA, died. This shows the direct participation of the Americans and their level of intervention. This is not only shown by the death of the Americans but by the construction of the garrison itself, the weapons, and everything that was there.

[Chong] Does this victorious guerrilla forces attack on the El Paraiso garrison mean that the guerrilla forces are in the best fighting condition to carry out other such important attacks and other actions and to face any type of increase in the military activity of the U.S.-supported regime?

[Diaz] Of course, this unmasks all the psychological warfare that the Reagan administration and the Duarte regime have waged, saying that we have been broken up, that we are disorganized and ragged, that we do not have an offensive capacity, and that we are practically annihilated and are disappearing. The national maneuver included 12 actions, the main one being the attack on the 4th Brigade garrison. The other actions complemented the main action. In general terms we have shown that we are capable of carrying out a national maneuver. The next maneuvers...[changes thought] we have begun a new campaign called For Achieving Justice, Bread, Freedom, All the People Take Up Arms.

FMLN COMMANDER REPORTS ON GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN

PA050054 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Statement by Salvadoran FMLN Commander Valentin Martinez in a "Special Service" report; no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] The nationwide general maneuver has called For the Achievement of Bread, Land, Work, and Freedom, All People Take Up Arms. It consisted of a huge national maneuver that included multiple operations. The main action was the attack on and annihilation of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso. This was one of the most important barracks of the Salvadoran Army.

These operations were carried out by the troops of the guerrilla army, the guerrilla columns, the clandestine guerrillas, the support weapons units, and the people's militia. This shows the people's broad participation in revolutionary operations.

Ten minutes after the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade barracks was initiated by our support weapons units -- the revolutionary artillery -- our artillery had demolished 80 percent of the installations. All the installations had fallen to the guerrillas after 30 minutes. All the resistance had ended. Resistance was found only from a sentry box and from the area of the ammunition dump.

All the objectives sought in the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade were successfully secured. The objective was to annihilate the enemy forces and to destroy the installations as well as the logistical arsenal of the strategic 4th Brigade.

At the moment of the attack, Colonel Rubio thought only about saving himself. The commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade fled. The troops were left leaderless. This explains to some extent why the enemy force at the 4th Infantry Brigade suffered 650 casualties. One of the brigade's battalions was completely wiped out and the other one was partially annihilated.

Meanwhile, the enemy suffered 60 casualties in Cuscatlan Department -- at Cerro La Campana. It suffered another 40 casualties in an operation against the 15 September Battalion in Estanzuelas and as a result of an ambush in El Triunfo against reinforcement forces from the 3d Brigade.

These operations represent a historic deed for the Salvadoran young people. They show the substance of which the male and female fighters of the FMLN are made. These operations have shown their high patriotic and revolutionary spirit.

These are fighters who seek the enemy in their holes. The puppet troops attack the people and provoke exoduses. They capture and kill civilians. The population is the target of the attacks by the government Army. The FMLN, meanwhile, has attacked the enemy frontally. The FMLN guerrilla forces attacked the enemy's most fortified positions, an enemy that shields itself with air support.

The enemy, however, must realize that wars are not won in the air. The deciding element in a war is the support of the people and the morale of the revolutionaries -- the human factor.

From a military point of view, the great national maneuver has not been an isolated action; it is part of a military process, just as some U.S. legislators have said. This is a superior phase of the struggle, especially, the beginning of a superior phase of the revolutionary war.

Also from a military point of view, this action was a combined effort that included the attack and annihilation operations, ambushes, raids, and sieges. The enemy suffered 700 casualties, including 60 in Campana Hill and 40 in Estanzuelas and El Triunfo. This successful maneuver demonstrates:

1. That the FMLN is stronger and has more capability and that the only thing imperialism has achieved is to delay the people's victory. But a delayed victory could be harder on them. Our decision to win and to see the revolution through is undefeatable.

2. This has been a humiliating defeat for them because that barracks' security organization was under direct U.S. advice and because this is the second time we have attacked the same barracks -- a barracks that had all sorts of technological devices, searchlights, fences, mines, sentry boxes, casemates, patrols, peripheral positions, etc.

What happened is evidence that no technique is a match for the courage and creativeness of a people's revolutionary force.

This victory has been very humiliating because the Army commanders did not respond adequately. This has become evident to the world. Colonel Caceres Cabrera, who could have been of help to the 4th Brigade, did not move from his barracks. He issued no order, he was completely paralyzed, and his forces were immobilized by FMLN guerrilla troops.

Meanwhile, Rubio -- the commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade -- fled, and his troops fled in disarray. This has been another huge moral defeat for the puppet Army.

We want to make very clear that it is not true that the officer [the U.S. adviser] who died at the 4th Brigade barracks had been visiting. The man fell with his arms in his own room at the 4th Brigade installations. He came [to El Salvador] like Rambo to wage terrorism, and we gave him the opportunity to die in combat.

They reside in barracks. They are in the field. They are leading the war. I believe that the Pentagon and the State Department maintain an unwise policy that reminds us of Vietnam. We think it is about time for the [U.S.] House or Senate to realize that Ronald Reagan is entangled in the region, that his policy is an attack not only on the interests of the people of the region and on the just cause of our people but also on U.S. interests.

The current revolutionary campaign has revived the El Salvador debate in the United States. We believe that in addition to questioning the inefficiency and the mistaken political and military strategy of the White House, there should be questioning of a moral nature. David is hitting again because we are being attacked.

We also want to call on the soldiers to join the guerrilla army and to collaborate from the barracks.

We warmly call on all our people to intensify the patriotic struggle, the struggle for our rights, to intensify the war against the puppets, and to continue fighting for justice and national sovereignty.

We urge all our revolutionary fighters -- the men of the guerrilla army, the militia, the clandestine militia, all our militants -- to intensify the struggle, to grow stronger, and, especially, to strengthen the revolutionary unity of the FMLN.

Unity is possible. Unity is an existing situation. Victory is certain.

DE LA MADRID, CEREZO REPORTEDLY TO MEET 8 APR

PA050441 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Report by correspondent Luis Mazorra from Mexico City]

[Text] On Friday, it was announced here that Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will meet twice with his Guatemalan counterpart, Vinicio Cerezo. The meetings seek to reinforce bilateral relations and the historical ties that exist between the two countries. Trade, scientific, technical, cultural, social, and political topics are among the most important that De la Madrid and Cerezo will discuss during the talks that begin Wednesday. However, with 4 days until the meetings, two other topics are generating the most expectations because of their importance. These topics are the problem of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico and the Central American crisis.

Despite the fact the two countries are neighbors and there are historical ties between the two peoples, a Mexican president has not visited that Central American country in almost 10 years because of Mexico's constant differences with the successive military dictatorships that ruled Guatemala. These dictatorships attempted to annex Belize and rejected the struggles of the FSLN and FMLN. These stances have always been at odds with Mexico's.

When Christian Democrat Cerezo rose to power, the first signs of an improvement in bilateral relations began to appear based on Guatemala's proclaimed neutrality in the Central American conflict. The Mexican Government endorses the Guatemalan stance of rejecting a solution to the Central American conflict that excludes Nicaragua -- as expressed in the recent meeting of the Central American foreign ministers [as heard] in San Jose.

However, the current harmony could be affected when the problem of Guatemalan refugees is analyzed. Mexico is insisting that the decision of those people to return when their individual rights are guaranteed should be respected. Moreover, the Cerezo government is making great efforts to get approximately 40,000 Guatemalans to return. These people had fled the repression of the previous military regimes. Guatemalan Ambassador to Mexico Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro recently said the conditions do not exist at present in his country to receive the refugees. He noted that work is underway to achieve this goal.

HAVANA HOSTS JOINT CEMA-MEXICO COOPERATION TALKS

FL010140 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Mar 87

[By Amado Cordoba]

[Text] The sixth meeting of the joint CEMA-Mexico Cooperation Commission began today in this capital. Matters regarding multilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, industrial development, and foreign trade will be discussed during the work sessions that will continue until 2 April.

This meeting, held in our country for the first time, is expected to become a new milestone in economic and trade relations between CEMA and Mexico.

The joint commission is chaired by Lic Miguel Angel Olea, ambassador-coordinator of economic affairs of the Mexican Foreign Secretariat. Because Cuba is the host country, Raul Taladrid, Cuban vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, is heading the CEMA delegation.

Sign Cooperation Agreement

FL062016 Havana Radio Periodico del Aire in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] A cooperation agreement between the CEMA and Mexico has been signed here in Havana as the result of the sixth meeting of the joint CEMA-Mexico Cooperation Commission. The CEMA meeting began in Havana on 31 March. During the meeting, the joint commission studied the most important aspects of the economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the CEMA countries and Mexico.

U.S. TURNING CARIBBEAN ECONOMY INTO 'POWDER KEG'

PA031304 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The very dim lights of what was the so-called Caribbean basin plan -- a plan encouraged by the traditional demagoguery of the current U.S. Administration -- just went out when it was learned that the economic situation of the basin has worsened. Washington feels the Caribbean basin is part of its strategic backyard.

The setback is reflected in an increase in the Caribbean foreign debt that can no longer be tolerated, and it stems -- oddly enough -- from the protectionist measures and the unequal trade imposed by the U.S. authorities on the peoples of the area. Statistics confirm these facts. Thus, Jamaica has become the country with the heaviest debt in the English-speaking Caribbean community, precisely under the administration of Prime Minister Edward Seaga, a loyal friend of Ronald Reagan.

Jamaica's debt amounts to over \$3.5 billion, which works out on a per capita basis to \$1,625 -- a figure higher than that of Brazil, the country with the largest financial commitment in the hemisphere. Trinidad and Tobago owes \$550 million, and the recent devaluation of its currency by nearly 40 percent has put that small country in a difficult economic situation.

The new authorities in Barbados are now confronting the crisis inherited from the administration of the Democratic Labor Party [DLP], led by the late Prime Minister Tom Adams. When Adams rose to power in 1976 Barbados' debt amounted to only \$25 million. When his term in office ended in 1986, the amount had risen to nearly \$219 million. During the DLP administration, the country made commitments worth \$52 million, and paid some \$88 million in foreign debt payments.

The drop in sugar [as heard], tourism, and manufactured goods has seriously affected Barbados' economy. In that regard, the parliamentary secretary of the government office, (Anderson Morrison), said that the foreign debt is beginning to seriously worry local authorities, as is the case in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Guyana is another nation of the English-speaking community that has serious problems that result from the U.S.' hegemonistic policy. The national debt is more than \$1.5 billion, and must be accepted in the midst of a blockade imposed on the country by many credit organizations. The abrupt reduction in the sugar quota by the U.S. market has seriously harmed the Guyanese economy, as has been the case with the rest of the sugar-exporting Caribbean countries.

As a result, the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean are now joining the group of countries of the hemisphere having serious financial difficulties, and the formulas prepared by Washington to drown with promises our nations' claims are not helping at all. The English-speaking Caribbean nations are quickly becoming another area where the economic situation is becoming a powder keg.

BRAZILIAN JUSTICE MINISTER BEGINS VISIT

Arrives in Havana 5 Apr

F1061223 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Brazilian Justice Minister Paulo Brossard de Souza Pinto arrived in our capital last night. The distinguished guest was received at the airport by Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera, Cuban Ambassador to Brazil Jorge Bolanos, and Brazilian Ambassador to Cuba Italo Zappa.

In brief remarks to the press, Dr Brossard de Souza Pinto said relations between his country and Cuba are broad and hopes they will continue to flourish. The Brazilian justice minister is visiting Cuba at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart.

Meets With Justice Minister

FL061752 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Report by Daura Olema Garcia]

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and justice minister, this morning met with his Brazilian counterpart Paulo Brossard de Souza Pinto. The Brazilian justice minister is visiting our country at the invitation of the Cuban Justice Ministry. Also present at the meeting were Cuban attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa and Jose Raul Amaro Salup, president of the Supreme People's Tribunal. Brazilian Justice Minister Paulo Brossard de Souza Pinto heads a high ranking Brazilian delegation that will remain in our country until 8 April.

Begins Official Talks

FL061911 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] The official talks between Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera and Brazilian Justice Minister Paulo Brossard de Souza Pinto have begun within an environment of much cordiality. The Cuban justice minister explained the Cuban judicial system, the appointment of lay and technical judges, and the new laws approved by the Cuban parliament, and the National Assembly of the People's Government. Escalona also mentioned the amendments to the penal and commercial codes currently being studied and explained how the country's tribunals operate. He answered many questions on drug trafficking, the jail system, and other crimes.

The head of the guest delegation thanked Escalona for his explanations and talked about some of the crimes that are committed in his South American country. Minister Brossard de Souza Pinto said the traffic accidents in his country have become a serious problem because many result in death.

BRAZIL, SOCIALIST NATIONS TO INSTALL PHONE LINES

FL261703 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Brazil will participate with the USSR, the GDR, Yugoslavia, and Hungary in installing 130,000 new telephone lines to replace the ancient equipment used in the Havana telephone system. Our country currently has 530,000 pieces of telephone equipment, which is not enough for the population.

Vice minister of communications Manuel Garcia Fernandez, has been in Brazil for 2 weeks and he told journalists that Brazil's participation now depends on a line of credit to finance the purchase of telephone centers, telephone sets, cables, and equipment for the ABC, (X-Fil), (SUAID), (Conducel), and (Electra) enterprises.

UN ENVOY SHOWS CONCERN FOR CHILEAN EXMINISTER

FL1310317 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0210 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Today, the Cuban delegation to the United Nations, during a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Committee at the United Nations, expressed its deep concern over the life of former Chilean Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda.

Speaking to PRENSA LATINA, Alberto Velazco San Jose, alternate Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, said our country suggested to the movement's Presidency to show the Chilean regime's authorities concern over Almeyda's life. Almeyda is currently secluded for demanding his right to live in Chile. According to the Cuban diplomat, this effort will be made through UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will directly convey to the regime the nonaligned proposal on the former Chilean foreign minister. Clodomiro Almeyda was taken to Chile Chico, more than 500 km from Santiago. He is isolated and under strict surveillance.

CHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER VIEWS NATIONAL STRUGGLE

PA012247 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Interview with Carlos Perez, general secretary of the Communist Party of Chile mission in Cuba by Ramon Chong; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Chong] I would like you to evaluate the Chilean people's situation.

[Perez] Developments in Chile are characterized by three actions that clearly marked the end to easing activity in the people's struggle. The first of these was the mobilization called by the National Workers Command on 25 March. This mobilization showed that the morale of workers and of the people in general has not diminished in the face of aggression, repression, and terrorism unleashed by the fascist junta. The door to popular mobilization was reopened on 25 March. It was an encouraging action. We hope that mobilization will increase.

Another development that was a milestone in the Chilean people's struggle for liberation from the Pinochet tyranny is the hunger strike a large number of political prisoners are staging. The courage and heroism of the hunger strikers, who are putting their lives on the line to achieve freedom, increases the value of the strike. We have asked for international solidarity to prevent deeply patriotic revolutionary youths from dying as a result of the obstinacy and military harshness Pinochet uses to fight his adversaries.

The third element is the return of the Socialist Party's secretary general to the country. We greatly appreciate this return and find it to be meaningful and enlightening for all Chilean exiles throughout the world.

This is an example of personal courage, which we greatly respect. We certainly side with Clodomiro Almeyda, secretary general of the Chilean socialists. All this occurs in the framework of the pope's arrival in the country. The pope will find a people in Chile determined to make themselves heard, a people who undoubtedly want even the pope to become the spokesman for the people's desires for justice and hope, for the people's struggle and this daily and permanent battle for liberty and democracy in our country.

[Chong] As the top leader of the Communist Party of Chile in Cuba, I would like you to state your organization's position on the current Chilean situation.

[Perez] Our position was clearly expressed in our directorate's latest statement in February. In it, the party expressed and proposed to the country, political leaders, and social organizations a conciliation, a way to form a group, and a way to consolidate the unity of the opposition to combat the dictatorship. The party's struggle is the people's struggle. Therefore, we are responding, and will respond in the future, in the most consistent manner possible, to this desire of the people, this national clamor heard in every corner of the country and backed by international solidarity, that Chile must recover its liberty, independence, and democracy on a short-term basis.

FIFTH UJC CONGRESS SESSIONS CONTINUE WORK

FAR Celebrates UJC 1 Apr

FL010312 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] The main ceremony of the FAR marking the 25th anniversary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] and the 26th of the Organization of Jose Marti Pioneers was held today. The event was presided over by Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and first vice minister of the FAR.

FAR delegates to the UJC congress participated in the ceremony, during which three military groups received the [word indistinct] youth banner conferred by the UJC National Bureau. The groups that received this high honor were the Border Brigade, a communications battalion from the Central Army, and a unit of internationalist combatants fulfilling a mission in Angola. Likewise, the Eastern Army received a trophy for being the best command of young people conducting work in combative formation and training.

The Technical Youth Brigades' 11th scientific-technical contest awards were also presented. A special military award and four awards to the best works were delivered. The Revolutionary Navy was the most outstanding command in the scientific work.

Colonel Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee, made the closing remarks and talked about the work conducted by young people in the defense of the Fatherland.

Fidel Castro, Velez Talk

FL032039 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1152 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Conversation between President Fidel Castro and Jose Velez Fernandez, delegate from the Granma military industrial enterprise, during the second day of the Fifth UJC Congress at the Palace of Conventions in Havana -- recorded]

[Text] My name is Jose Velez Fernandez of the Granma military industrial enterprise. I will talk about two issues: defense and investigation. First, I would like to talk about the issue of achievements in the country. It is facing big problems in the field of investigation. One example I can give you [Velez uses the informal "te" when addressing Castro] I can give you [corrects himself and uses the formal "se"] -- did I say it wrong?

[Castro] No, no. Pretty well said.

[Velez] We are military units. In 1985 we were given the task of developing techniques for the repair and reconstruction of containers. In 1979 the Ministry of Transportation did some tests in this area and they proved positive. However, the results of the tests were only reported on paper and never implemented. Today we are trying to gather all the information so that we can begin to work based on the results of those tests. This is proof that the results of an investigation are reported but not implemented. Testing is done but the positive results are not put into practice. The initial investigators went to Hungary, Romania, Poland, and other countries; however, their findings have not been put into practice. This was in 1979. We are now in 1987 and we are still getting no answers.

Because we are a military unit and because we wanted to contribute to our economy and to the defense of the country, we took the initiative. It took us 6 months of voluntary work, with the help of the technical brigades, to set up the equipment we needed to repair these containers here in Cuba. We repaired 144 containers and the country was able to save half a million pesos. Today this equipment is available for use wherever it may be needed because we have done our work and we will not be needing it any more because repairing containers is not really a priority for us.

However, we did want to mention to our commander that the state is spending 6 million pesos to repair containers abroad when there is no need for this because the ground work has been done and we can repair them here. They claim there is no budget for this. I do not understand this. We, who do this work, are not engineers. We are navy construction technicians. We were asked to do this job and we did. We were ordered and when we get an order we obey it.

Yesterday we felt sad just hearing the comrades speak of their problems. You have no idea the problems we have to face. We have to resolve the problems by recovering spare parts to ensure that the work is done and that the country is ready for the defense. We must be ready to fight the enemy and give the enemy what it deserves.

We do all that we can and if we cannot solve our problem, then we ask for help. But we do our part first; we try. I have seen here that there are too many comrades asking for too much. We seem to forget that not too long ago we were walking around in our underwear. No one wants to remember this. We must first work and try to solve our own problems. If we cannot solve the problems, then we ask for help. Well, one of those problems we cannot solve is the one on testing.

Commander, do you have a question you wish to ask?

[Castro] [Castro chuckles; people laugh] Yes, I have a question. What do you do with a container? What happens to the containers that need repairs?

[Velez] Those containers were not being used. They were damaged. The plates were all damaged.

[Castro] What did you do?

[Velez] We made the molds to make the plates. We repaired damaged corners; we remodeled the containers. This was approved by the Cuban ship registry. They have to approve the repairs before the container is sent abroad.

[Castro] What was it you were saying about Hungary, and I don't know what?

[Velez] What I said was that the Ministry of Transportation, and the former Ministry of Maritime Affairs, ordered a study on the techniques to repair containers. Those comrades went to Hungary, Poland, and other places to study the techniques. They worked on this while they were there, but the problem is that when they came back they did nothing. That is the problem.

[Castro] [Castro laughs] You took the initiative?

[Velez] Yes.

[Castro] However, you did not get to travel?

[Velez] We did not travel, but we worked on this.

[Castro] How much information do you have on this? How many containers can be repaired in a year? Why do you say that we could save 3 or 4 million [currency not specified]?

[Velez] First, we have a lot with 8,000 containers.

[Castro] Ours?

[Velez] Ours.

[Castro] Aside from those containers, we also have containers that belong to others who leave them here to use for storage. Is that correct?

[Velez] Yes. They use them for storage, but those containers are also in need of repairs. They are damaged. We get paid in foreign exchange to repair them. However, when the containers were brought here, the ministry, the ENA [National Agriculture School] refused the request for repairs because they said we cannot make money off these repairs; so they only repair ships. The same thing is happening in Santiago de Cuba. They started out before we did, yet they came to us to learn after we started repairing the containers.

[Castro] How long did it take you to repair the 140 containers?

[Velez] A year.

[Castro] In a small shop? Where?

[Velez] In a small shop.

[Castro] How many men worked to repair those containers?

[Velez] Sixteen comrades.

[Castro] And you say that we have 8,000 containers. How many containers do we repair in a year?

[Velez] Well, we understand that this depends on the technology... [changes thought] let me tell you something. Chief, here in Cuba there is a place that is equipped... [people laugh] ...listen to me, equipped to handle this. (Gambutí) in Guanabacoa. They have the equipment to repair the containers.

[Castro] What is the shop being used for?

[Velez] As far as I know, nothing.

[Castro and delegates laugh and applaud]

[Castro] Guanabacoa. Remind me of this [words indistinct] Oh boy. [Castro laughs]

[Velez] Excuse me comrades but the other thing I would like to bring up is really a suggestion. We believe, and we were not able to speak of this before... [laughter]

[Unidentified speaker] What you wanted was to get hold of the microphone.

[Velez] Let me see if this time I do better than I did before. [laughter and applause]

[Unidentified speaker] You are trying. [laughter and applause]

[Velez] To abide by the laws, an enterprise must first have good leadership. It must have a chief who is also a militant. He must love what he is doing. A militant loves his work and does his work. Our chiefs are militants. As Che once said, they are vanguards. They are the first to undertake any type of work. The problems I have heard here, the problems with workers, with the administration, that so and so was not appointed because he was not a friend; just imagine what would happen if we were to allow a stranger to come to our enterprise just because he is a friend of a friend. It would not be long before we found an American in there, or a counterrevolutionary placing a bomb. This is why all the civilian and other enterprises must be militant enterprises, not vanguard, they must be militant enterprises and they must obey the laws.

There is nothing wrong with the laws: the problem we have is the people. We cannot just ask that a law be abolished because we think it is no good or because we do not want to abide by it.

Let me give you an example: We have a comrade who was refused a job as a technician. He did not deserve the job because he was a drunk and a good for nothing. We told him he could not have the job because he was no good and only a person who works would get the job. We told him he could leave. Well, he stayed there because he talked, cried, and all that, so we let him stay. [laughter] But the person that got the job was the person that deserved it. I think the law should also have an addendum stating that: good for nothings deserve nothing. [laughter and applause]

BRIEFS

CAPE VERDE SIGNS PROTOCOL -- Cuba and Cape Verde have signed a trade protocol on goods and services for the period from 1987-1990. It is based on partial compensation and a memorandum of understanding, which includes the results of the talks between the two nations. [Text] [Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 87 FL]

BANK REPORTS ON 1986 OECS ECONOMIC GROWTH

FL302024 Bridgetown CANA in English 1901 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, March 30, CANA — The seven islands of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) recorded modest economic growth during the first nine months of last year, marked by improvements in banana exports and tourism, the St Kitts-based Eastern Caribbean Central Bank [ECCB] has said.

The available indicators on the ECCB area economies for the first nine months of 1986 continued to suggest a modest expansion in economic activity. The external sector, as reflected in the growth of agricultural exports and tourism services, has continued to provide the major boost to this expansion, the bank said in a recent report.

Production increases were reported for bananas, nutmeg, mace, sugar and a variety of vegetables. There were declines in production of cocoa and arrowroot.

Banana exports increased by 26.7 per cent to 151,661 tonnes and in value by about 55 per cent to EC195 million dollars (one EC dollar — 37 cents U.S.) in the period January to September, the report said. It said the higher increase in value relative to that in volume could be explained by a combination of a slightly higher sterling price and the appreciation of sterling in relation to the EC dollar, which is linked to the American currency. The average sterling price for a tonne of bananas during January — September was 522.83 pounds sterling compared with 521.73 pounds in the corresponding 1986 period. Much of the increase in banana exports came from St Lucia and Dominica, each recording increases of about 35 per cent, while shipments from St Vincent and the Grenadines also showed significant growth, increasing by 10 per cent. Shipments from Grenada by contrast declined by seven per cent over the period.

The bank said: among other commodity exports, nutmeg from Grenada continued to benefit from favourable market conditions, with earnings increasing by 9.7 million dollars to 17.1 million dollars despite a 10 per cent decline in volume shipped.

However, cocoa also exported by Grenada declined by 6.6 per cent to 10.9 million dollars. The reduction in cocoa earnings was due to a sharp decline in export volume (25 per cent), which was partially offset by a significant increase in the unit EC dollar price.

The bank reported significant increases in earnings from most other agricultural commodities, particularly vegetables shipped from St Vincent and the Grenadines. The bank said the manufacturing sector appeared to record continued stagnation, particularly regarding products such as electronic components and garments.

Tourism expansion was reported to have continued. For the area as a whole stay-over visitors increased by 12.3 per cent to a total of about 333,000. On a territorial basis, the growth in arrivals was most substantial in St Lucia and St Kitts and Nevis, where increases of 26 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively, were recorded. Cruise ship visitors also rose significantly, with a total of 260,000 passengers travelling to the seven islands, about 15 per cent more than for the same period of 1985.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN AUGUST

FL182100 Bridgetown CANA in English 1625 GMT 18 Mar 87

[by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 18, CANA -- The first ever conference of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean is being organised to take place in August. A venue is still to be chosen.

The conference will involve representatives of the indigenous peoples from throughout the Caribbean region with special guests from Central America and Canada, where there are significant segments of aboriginal tribes.

The main objectives of the meeting, resulting from a three-day meeting in April last year of the representatives of the Caribs in Dominica, Belize, and St Vincent and the Grenadines are to:

1. Give national and international recognition to the importance of indigenous people;
2. Make a critical analysis of the social, economic, and political context of the countries with indigenous peoples and to identify the main issues of concerns to these citizens of the Caribbean;
3. Establish a basis for greater collaboration between and among indigenous peoples, regionally and internationally; and
4. Share opinions and strategies on how best indigenous peoples can impact on the programmes of governments in planning for the overall well-being of all of the sections of their societies.

Countries from Belize -- with its Mayas and Garifunos -- in the Central American region, to Suriname and Guyana in South America where the Bush Negro and Amerindian communities respectively comprise the fourth largest ethnic groups, as well as the Caribs of St Vincent and Dominica, are expected to be involved in the August conference.

The central theme of the conference is Caribbean indigenous revival -- a stepping stone to greater recognition and developments.

The intention of the conference organisers is to promote a better appreciation of the history and culture of the indigenous peoples, of their contributions to national development and why they should become more integrally involved in the mainstream of life in the culturally diverse multi-ethnic societies of the Caribbean region.

The organisers have pointed out that the forthcoming conference should not be viewed as having anything to do with current problems between the government of Dominica and the Carib people of the Salybia area. The conference is being launched with the assistance of various regional and extra-regional organisations, among them Oxfam, CUSO [Canadian University Service Overseas] of Canada, and church-related funding agencies.

BARBADOSBARROW PROPOSES IDB REORGANIZATION COMPROMISE

FL251525 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister of Barbados, Errol Barrow, has called for a compromise to reorganize the Inter-American Bank. Yesterday in Miami at the bank's annual conference, Prime Minister Barrow called on all member countries of the bank to build a compromise between ideal objectives and pragmatic results. Mr Barrow criticized the proposed change in bank voting rules, which would give the United States, together with another country such as Canada, the right to effectively block the granting of loans that they do not approve.

TRADE UNIONIST ARCHER TO CONTEST NEXT ELECTIONS

FL260249 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 25, CANA -- Trade unionist Keith Archer will contest the next general elections as a candidate for the Trades Unions Congress (TUC), labour sources said. Archer, president of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union, will be running in the Fort Charlotte constituency.

A TUC spokesman was quoted by the press as saying that the main opposition Free National Movement (FNM) has agreed not to oppose Archer, while the TUC would encourage trade unionists to back the FLM. The TUC said in a statement that Archer's candidacy fulfills a long standing dream of the TUC. It said the union was of the view that the working people of the Bahamas needed a voice in Parliament that would articulate their particular concerns.

General elections are to be held here this year.

ST LUCIAOPPOSITION PARTY PRESENTS 1987 MANIFESTO

FL310232 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 30 CANA -- The opposition St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), seeking to wrest power from Prime Minister John Compton's United Workers Party (UWP) in April 6 general elections, last night promised to abolish income tax for workers earning EC800 dollars (1 EC dol; 37 cents U.S.) a month or less.

SLP leader Julian Hunte detailed wide-ranging tax relief proposals as he presented the party's 1987 manifesto at a public meeting in the capital, Castries.

The 26-point action plan aims to stimulate economic activity and contribute to reducing unemployment, the SLP leader said, and revenues lost will be made up by a more productive work force, efficiency in both collection of taxes and effective planning.

The SLP promised that with effect from the income year 1987: [sentence as received]

1. Persons whose gross income of EC 800 dollars per month or less will pay no tax.
2. A graduated scale ranging from 25 percent to 40 percent will be introduced for corporations.
3. A policy of investment credits will be introduced by which tax credits will be allowed for existing businesses who invest in new ventures.
4. An immediate study will be undertaken to formulate mechanisms to enable the high surpluses which has been built up in the banking system to be put to productive use by the business sector.
5. The hotels aids ordinance will be amended to permit nationals to qualify for incentives for the operations of guest houses.
6. New small businesses will be exempted from payment of taxes for the first two years of operation.
7. The income from the operation of registered pre-schools will be exempted from income tax.
8. The exemption of the first 75,000 dollars or income derived from the cultivation of land or from fishing by any farmer or fisherman will be extended past 1987.
9. Citizens of St Lucia will be exempt from having to obtain income tax clearances in order to travel out of the state.
10. Allowances for mortgage interest paid will be revised upward.
11. The allowance for sums expended on repairs to owner-occupied residences will be reintroduced.
12. Interest on tax refunds: effective from income year 1987, interest will be payable on tax refunds which have not been made after the expiration of six months from the date of filing. Rate of interest to be the same as that levied on arrears due.

Property taxes:

13. Persons with residential mortgages of up to 100,000 dollars entered into for owner-occupied premises will be exempt from land and house taxes.
14. Pensioners living in their own houses will pay 50 percent of the assessed land and house taxes for the property.

Import and stamp duties:

15. Stamp duties levied on basic goods will be reviewed.

16. Registered speculators and traders who import goods while travelling will be exempt from duties for goods imported up to EC 5000 dollars in any one period of twelve months.

17. Exchange control forms will be exempt for amounts of up to EC 10,000 dollars for any one person per period of twelve months.

Medical and the aged:

18. Free medical care at all hospitals and health centres will be reintroduced.

19. Increased benefits will be paid to the aged, infirmed and unemployed pensioners.

Public servants:

20. Arrangements will be made for public servants to receive the 25 percent back-pay due them.

21. Vacant posts in the public service which are now the subject of acting appointments, will be filled.

22. Consideration will be given to the reintroduction of the post of station sargeant or increase the number of inspectors in the police force.

Youth and sport:

23. Scholarships will be awarded for the main sporting disciplines -- football, cricket, athletics, tennis, netball, etc.

Housing:

24. A financial mechanism, for a youth employment scheme will be put into place with the goal of providing at least 500 new jobs per annum for the unemployed youth for each of the next five (5) years.

25. A programme will be instituted to provide between 300 and 500 houses and sites and service lots for low and middle income households in each of the next five (5) years.

Misc:

26. Registered taxi-drivers of five (5) years standing will be permitted to import new units duty free on a one-off basis.

"We will put economic power back in the hands of St Lucians. We will give St Lucia back to St Lucians," Hunte said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGOPROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGE UNDER FIRE

FLO21605 Bridgetown CANA in English 1441 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 2, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's three-month old government is under fire from the press, trade unions and the political opposition because of plans to amend the Republic's Constitution. The government wants to change the Constitution to rescind appointments former President Ellis Clarke made shortly before he left office.

Some critics have said the matter is too trifling to merit such a drastic move. Others are suggesting that the government have a referendum on the issue or a public debate before seeking parliamentary approval for the amendment.

The Constitution amendment bill - laid last Friday in the lower house by attorney general, Selwyn Richardson - would achieve two results:

-- Enable puisne judges of the high court to be appointed on a month to month basis preventing unlimited jurisdiction for some officers; and

-- Require the resignation of independent senators and others appointed to the independent service commissions made by an outgoing president when a new president is elected.

No one appears to have any quarrel with the first amendment. The storm has been over the second amendment, focusing not so much at the provision for President Noor Hassanali to make his own appointments to the supervisory teaching, police, public and judicial and legal service commissions but at the apparent attempts to change the Constitution one week after a wave of controversy over last minute appointments made by Clarke.

The national council of the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has voted its support for government - the only favorable voice in the midst of a growing barrage of criticism. The council said it judged it prudent and desirable for a new president to be given full power and authority.

Patrick Manning, leader of the People's National Movement (PNM)-which appointed Clarke when in office-wrote this week to Prime Minister ANR Robinson urging him to tread warily on this hurriedly concocted legislation and suggesting the bill go forward for public comment first. The Constitution, put in place when the PNM was in power, had been set in place to guard against the possibility of arbitrary and/or vindictive actions on its part, Manning said.

Opposition leader, in the senate, Augustus Ramkersingh, accused the government, which ended the PNM's 30-year rule in last December's general election, of manipulating the constitution to settle scores.

Very few of the bill's critics have actually faulted the need to give an incoming president full reign and make appointments to match his five-year term in office.

The criticisms have come over the perceived attempts of government to use its overwhelming majority to quickly pass a bill as serious as an amendment to the governing Constitution. In a unanimous resolution at its biennial conference yesterday, the trade union umbrella Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress (TTL) questioned the haste at which the bill had been presented. The 14 unions represented passed the resolution accusing government of tampering with the Constitution. They said this could lead to very serious implications for the independence of office of president as well as to subject persons to the whims and fancies of the political directorate.

The SUNDAY GUARDIAN newspaper said that whatever the arguments for or against these appointments, any amendment to the Constitution is a serious matter with great implications for a country and must not be rushed through parliament. The TRINIDAD EXPRESS newspaper said: This government has too great a majority in parliament to want to tamper with the Constitution and we must not let it do so. The paper commented that it was impossible not to read the bill as intended to settle scores.

Prime Minister Robinson questioned the need for constitutional reform at the same time as telling parliament we had not been consulted over an appointment. Clarke had made two appointments - one without consulting Robinson and another after Robinson had reportedly asked that it be left to Hassanali. It raises the whole question I am talking about - standards in public life, its (Constitution) effectiveness, its suitability for the circumstances which a country like Trinidad and Tobago has to face from time to time, Robinson had told parliament a week before the bill was laid there. The bill needs support from two-thirds of parliament to become law. With the government's 33-3 seat control of the lower house this should be no problem, but the senate is a different case.

The government will need to woo the nine independent senators whose five-year appointments by Clarke the bill seeks to prematurely end. The upper chamber comprises 16 government senators, six opposition senators and nine independents.

PRIME MINISTER TO SEEK FUNDS FOR PROJECTS

FL261430 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Trinidad's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson said Wednesday [25 March] that he will go both to local Trinidad banks as well as foreign institutions seeking loans for development projects. Mr Robinson, acknowledging his 3-month old government has an empty treasury, signed an agreement on Tuesday [24 March] with Republic Bank of Port of Spain for \$81 million in financing for government projects. He also said the government is negotiating with the Inter-American Development Bank for \$36 million in loans.

HOYTE CONCLUDES AGREEMENTS WITH VENEZUELA

PA030410 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Georgetown, 2 Apr (AFP) — Venezuela "has given hope to Guyana for speedy economic development," Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte told AFP today in a brief statement in Georgetown.

Hoyte visited Caracas 24-27 March, and concluded several cooperation agreements with Venezuela. The two countries have been at odds for many years as a result of Venezuela's claims over the Essequibo area in western Guyana.

"The offers and suggestions made by many high-ranking officials from Venezuela are a source of great optimism to Guyana," Hoyte said.

Within the framework of Hoyte's visit, Guyana and Venezuela renewed last year's agreement to exchange petroleum for bauxite, and opened a line of rotating credit of \$15 million for purchasing Venezuelan products.

Venezuelan businessmen will join associations for the exploitation of bauxite from Guyana and will explore other associations.

Reports on Visit

FL060307 Bridgetown CANA in English 1634 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 4, CANA — Venezuela's claim to five-eighths of Guyana's territory ought not be a barrier to the furtherance of cooperation in the economic, cultural and other fields, President Desmond Hoyte says. Indeed it would seem that such cooperation might well enhance the existing circumstances for the resolution of the problem, Hoyte said yesterday during an address to the Second Supreme Congress of the People.

Reporting on his recent visit to Caracas, Hoyte said the issue was thoroughly discussed between himself and his Venezuela counterpart. The congress, an advisory body to the president, comprises representatives of the cabinet and leaders of the ten administrative regions of the country. The first session of the congress took place in December 1982 under the late President Forbes Burnham.

Hoyte said his talks in Venezuela took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and it was agreed that the permanent representatives of Guyana and Venezuela at the United Nations would communicate with the secretary general of the United Nations, about the substance of the discussions. The border dispute has been placed before the U.N. chief.

Hoyte signed bilateral accords for cultural and economic co-operation during his four-day visit which ended March 28.

The accord is part of a growing programme of economic co-operation between the neighbouring countries, whose relations have long been troubled by a century-old border dispute over Guyana's Essequibo region.

HOYTE REVOKES JUNIOR MINISTER'S APPOINTMENT

FL142123 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 14, CANA -- President Desmond Hoyte has revoked the appointment of Donald Ainsworth as a minister of state (junior minister), his office said last night. No explanation was given. Ainsworth, 37, worked in the Ministry of Housing. The former school teacher was at one time a leading member of the Young Socialist movement, the youth arm of the ruling party.

TRADE UNION DEMONSTRATES AGAINST IMF DELEGATION

FL011355 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Text] In Guyana, there have been protests against a visit by a team from the International Monetary Fund. Leading members of the trade union in Guyana are taking part in a series of picketing exercises outside the Bank of Guyana building in the capital, Georgetown, where the three-member IMF team is currently holding talks with government officials. Among those carrying pickets to denounce any agreement between the government and the IMF were the president of the Guyana Trade Union Congress [TUC], George Daniels, and the TUC General Secretary Joseph Pollydore. They said the picketing will continue until the IMF team leaves Guyana.

The IMF team now in Georgetown is reviewing and assessing the extent of effectiveness of the 1987 budget measures, which included a devaluation of the Guyana dollar by 127 percent. Guyana's indebtedness of more than \$100 million U.S. dollars to the IMF and the World Bank has so far precluded negotiations for a stand by any other programs with the agency. A World Bank team is also coming to discuss developments and investments in the local mining sector.

OPPOSITION SEES POLITICS IN SECURITY EXERCISE

FL032242 Bridgetown CANA in English 1352 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 2, CANA -- A security exercise involving the Guyana defence force, the police, the people's militia and the Guyana national service started here yesterday. A defence secretariat official said the exercise is designed to test the operational readiness of the joint services for the maintenance or restoration of internal peace and stability.

An Army spokesman said the exercise, condennamed Wing Nut, is a normal Army activity which takes place every year in different parts of Guyana's coastal belt. The opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) in a statement issued yesterday charged that the exercise was connected with political activity here.

The Guyana Administration is not reacting well to normal political activity, the party said. Noting that the exercise came shortly after a twelve mile march by the opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy for Safety and Justice, the party said the Guyanese people have suffered too long to be intimidated into giving up the right to peaceful and agitation.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY
REPORT

Contents unchanged

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Inter-African Affairs

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